

But the group is asking senators to let stand the governor's veto on the Medicaid managed care sales tax replacement plan.

"We agree with Gov. Kasich's veto of the proposed replacement for local Medicaid sales tax revenues and we were disappointed that the Ohio House overrode the governor's veto," said Greg Lawson, an institute research fellow. "This proposal is a tax on insurance plans and as with most government taxes, it is highly unlikely that this new tax will be 'temporary.' It is time for local governments to go to their voters and convince them of the need to raise local taxes for local services rather than blaming Columbus for their inability to spend wisely."

Issue 2: Proponents of the controversial Issue 2 - also known as the "Drug Price Relief Act" - praised ballot language approved by the Ballot Board Thursday.

Yes on Issue 2 and its counterpart, Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue, negotiated compromise ballot language that the board then signed off on with little discussion. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 17, 2017)

Both sides said the language presented an accurate description of the November ballot issue, which would prohibit the state from purchasing prescription drugs for prices beyond what the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pays.

"Voters in Ohio are well-informed, smart and angry at the greedy drug companies that have been price-gouging the sick and suffering, and putting profits before patients," said Dennis Willard, a spokesman for the proponents. "The language is simple and straightforward just like our plan to lower drug prices for 4 million Ohioans and save taxpayers \$400 million a year."

Opponents claim the statute, if adopted by voters, would actually drive the cost of drugs higher.

OSU Study: \$152M In Lost Property Value Thanks To Algal Blooms...

Harmful algal blooms in Ohio have cost homeowners \$152 million in lost property value over the last six years, according to researchers.

That figure comes from a new Ohio State University study that examined the financial impacts of blooms in Buckeye Lake and Grand Lake St. Marys. A second study quantified the financial impact of blooms to sport fishing revenue generated by Lake Erie.

OSU bills the reports, published respectively in *Ecological Economics* and the *Journal of Environmental Management* as the first of their kind to put a dollar figure on the impact of algae. Researchers said they hope the studies will equip lawmakers with new information to create adequate algae prevention and cleanup resources.

"Our biggest takeaway is that efforts to prevent and mitigate algal blooms have real, tangible benefits for Ohioans, including property values," said Allen Klaiber, associate professor of agricultural, environmental and development economics at OSU.

The first study examines property values in the two interior lakes, finding that total values fell \$152 million from 2009-2015. Sales prices for homes within one-third of a mile from the lake fell 11-17% while adjacent homes saw prices dropping more than 22%, the report found.

In Buckeye Lake the drop was more severe, with the loss of \$101 million in home sales over six years. Grand Lake St. Marys saw a \$51 million loss.

Regarding Lake Erie, which fuels a \$1.7 billion tourism industry, simulations showed a "moderate" bloom would result in a 10-13% decrease in fishing license sales within 12 miles of the lake.

A severe bloom, akin to what occurred in 2011, would lead to 3,600 fewer licenses sold and as much as \$5.6 million in lost revenue in a single summer, the researchers determined.

Governor Appointment Reaction: The Ohio Environmental Council praised Gov. John Kasich's recent appointment of Sarah Spence to the Public Benefits Advisory Board. Ms. Spence is OEC's director of government affairs and was appointed this week.

"The board works with the director of the development services agency to ensure energy services are provided to low-income consumers in Ohio in an affordable manner," said Aryeh Alex, the OEC's vice president of public affairs. "Sarah is the right person for the job, and will add a strong environmental voice to the governor's administration."

Rover: A cease-and-desist order from the government of West Virginia was recently lifted, clearing the Rover Pipeline project to continue. That's over the objections of environmental groups who argue the project is harming the environment.

Meanwhile, a new *Bloomberg* analysis determined that the Rover project has set a new record for environmental violations. The publication determined the project, since its approval in February, has racked up more violations than any other major interstate natural gas pipeline built in the last two years.

Rover filings showed 104 negative inspection reports, according to *Bloomberg*. The next closest was the Williams' Virginia Southside Expansion which reported 26 violations.

To be fair, the 710-mile Rover is a longer pipeline than other projects included in the analysis. Still, the next longest - the 515-mile Enbridge Sabal Trail - reported 18 violations.

Energy Transfer Partners, the company behind the project, said it is working with regulatory agencies at all levels to meet safety and environmental regulations. But

friction continues between the company, opponents and regulatory agencies in Ohio and beyond. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 7, 2017)

Report Links STEM Skills, Quality Pre-K; President Approves GI Bill Expansion...

Business and military leaders are calling on state leaders to focus on early childhood education to ensure students are better prepared to enter the future workforce.

They joined Council for Strong America this week to release a new report highlighting the correlation between high-quality Pre-K and STEM skills.

The analysis also details projections for STEM workforce growth - an area that military and tech business stakeholders said during a Dayton press conference is a major concern. Health and computer technology industries are expected to grow by as much as 37% nationwide in the coming years, they said.

Currently, 65% of eight graders aren't proficient in math and 60% aren't proficient in science, the report shows. About one-third of college students, meanwhile, require remediation in math or English.

"As a result, employers - both in the private sector and the military - are struggling to find the STEM skilled workforce they need," the authors of the report wrote. "That is why business and military leaders in Ohio are calling on policymakers to invest more in high-quality early education where STEM skills take root."

According to the report, research shows that individuals with early exposure to math have improved abilities in the subject area later on and that early learning supports cognitive abilities as well as social and emotional skills that are beneficial in STEM career fields.

"The young people we will seek to recruit for the military, postsecondary education, and private sector jobs in less than 15 years should be entering pre-K today," former Adjutant General Deborah Ashenhurst said in a statement. "A greater investment in high-quality pre-K will have lasting impact for our children, for Ohio, and for our nation."

GI Bill: The president this week signed bipartisan legislation to expand education opportunities to post-9/11 veterans and restore GI Bill benefits to those who attended now-defunct technical colleges.

The bill removes a 15-year time limit on the benefits, allowing veterans and their dependents to use them for life. Among other things, it also extends eligibility for reservists, provides full benefits for Purple Heart recipients and increases GI Bill payments by \$2,300 per year for veterans with less than 12 months of active service.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland), who helped draft the measure, applauded its enactment.

In particular, he pushed for provisions that restore benefits to veterans who attended shuttered career technical colleges and alert veterans to schools offering priority enrollment

"Ohio veterans deserve better than to have the rug pulled out from under them by for-profit colleges," Sen. Brown said in a statement. "This bill is an important step towards rectifying the fraudulent practices of these schools and restoring and expanding the GI benefits our veterans have earned."

The measure also expands eligibility for the Department of Veterans Affairs' Yellow Ribbon Program to spouses and children of service members who died in combat. The program that helps students avoid out-of-pocket college costs above their GI Bill benefits is currently available only to veterans and spouses and children of service members.

Insurance: An insurance checklist for college students and their parents is now available from the Department of Insurance.

The checklist details insurance options for illness and injury, dental and eye care, personal protections and liability, renters and vehicles.

"Life away from home is a great opportunity for young adults to learn and grow, but it also presents considerations and challenges," ODI Director Jillian Froment said. "It is important that students and parents conduct an insurance review and consider including an insurance agent in the process."

Survey: The Ohio Department of Education is seeking input on proposed updates to Ohio's model curriculum for English and math in grades K-12. An online survey will be open through Sept. 13.

The model curriculum, which is set to go before the State Board of Education for approval this fall, will serve as a guide for teachers to help them better understand the knowledge and skills required under Ohio's Learning Standards - the basis for state tests.

Agency Briefs: RFP Issued For Marijuana Monitoring System; AG; SOS; EPA; BWC; MHAS; DNR

The state's Medical Marijuana Control Program is seeking a contractor for a system to monitor video surveillance at growers, processors and dispensaries.

The Department of Commerce issued the request for proposals this week as the program's rules, which cleared the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review at the end of July, were officially filed.

The rules go into effect Sept. 8. They cleared JCARR after a nearly yearlong development process that began following the program's enabling legislation, which went into effect last fall. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 31, 2017)

The RFP for the video management system requires one that can accept feeds from any camera operator and allow the state to see inside facilities at any time.

"Given an initial camera population of over 1,000 cameras across an Ohio medical marijuana entity facility population of 100+ facilities, the State requires an efficient means of monitoring camera operational status as well as an efficient path for identifying a particular camera at a particular facility for real-time camera viewing," the state said in its description.

Attorney General: Mike DeWine and attorneys general from 49 other states and territories urged Congress to amend the Communications Decency Act of 1996 to clarify that states and local governments can investigate and prosecute facilitators of child sex trafficking wherever they operate, including online.

"The proposed amended language to the Communications Decency Act will help to ensure that citizens and children are effectively protected throughout the entire country, in all courts," Attorney General DeWine said in a statement. "The intention of the Communications Decency Act is to protect children from indecent material online. It was never intended to place facilitators of child sex trafficking outside the reach of law enforcement."

Courts have interpreted the current language to allow only federal authorities to take action against companies that facilitate sex trafficking. The AGs urged in their letter for the law to be clarified.

Secretary of State: Jon Husted announced that all filings required to start or maintain a business in Ohio can now be submitted online. Owners can also submit all Uniform Commercial Code statements and certified search requests through the web, he said.

"Since day one, our office has committed itself to working on behalf of job creators and entrepreneurs to make it easier to start and maintain a business in Ohio," Secretary Husted said in a statement. "By improving the way our office does business, we are helping companies cut costs, save time, and reduce administrative burden so they can focus on providing quality services and products, as well as create jobs."

The secretary's office also announced that 8,800 new entities filed to do business in the state in July, up 1,279 compared to the previous July. A total of 71,979 entities have filed in Ohio this year.

Ohio EPA: The agency will hold a public hearing next week to receive comments on proposed water quality standards, including standards covering pesticides, dredged material and E. coli.

The hearing will begin at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, in the Ohio EPA Conference Center at 50 West Town Street in Columbus.

Written comments can be sent to Rules Coordinator, Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049, or emailed to dsw_rulecomments@epa.ohio.gov, through Aug. 23.

Workers' Compensation: The bureau announced that seven employers and injured workers who attempted to defraud the agency were convicted in July. The BWC's special investigations department has totaled 90 convictions so far this year.

"Workers' compensation fraud raises the cost of the system for everyone involved," said SID Director Jim Wernecke. "I hope these latest convictions serve as a reminder to those attempting to steal from BWC: We have investigators all over the state. We will find you, bring you to justice and make you repay the funds you illicitly acquired."

Mental Health and Addiction Services: The department said it is conducting a needs assessment with treatment providers as part of activities connected to the federal 21st Century CURES Act. The department is collecting information on what providers are doing and what needs they have for treating people with opioid-related disorders.

The assessment runs through Sept. 8. Providers who did not receive invitations can contact Laura Potts at laura.potts@mha.ohio.gov.

Natural Resources: The department announced it will hold special deer hunts at six state nature preserves across the state. Drawings will be held for the hunts, and entries cost \$5.

Governor's Appointments

Ohio University Board of Trustees: Stephen P. Casciani of Delaware (Delaware Co.) for a term beginning Aug. 18 and ending May 13, 2026.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, August 22

Public Facilities Commission, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 2 p.m.

Thursday, August 24

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m. (The Investment Committee will meet 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.; the Actuarial Committee 10:30 a.m. to noon; the Medical Services & Safety Committee 1 to 2 p.m.; the Governance Committee 2 to 2:30 p.m.; and the Audit Committee 2:30 to 4 p.m. The Actuarial, Governance and Audit Committee meetings may begin earlier if the preceding meeting adjourns earlier than scheduled.)

Friday, August 25

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 8 a.m.

Monday, August 28

Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation, 100 S. High St., Hillsboro,
9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 13


Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board, Suite 1500, 50 W. Broad
St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, August 19- Monday, August 21

Legislative Committees

Monday, June 4

~~Canceled:~~ Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review-(Committee Record)-(Chr.-Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m.

Agency Calendar

Monday, August 21

Controlling Board, North Hearing Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Saturday, August 19

Ohio Democratic Women's Caucus Luncheon, Hilton Columbus Downtown, 401 N High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Keynote Speaker is Kathleen Sebelius. For more information contact Rachel Rossi (rachel@ohiodems.org))

Monday, August 21

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Urbana Country Club, 4761 US-36, Urbana, (9:00 am Registration | 10:00 am Shotgun Start | Lunch at the turn on the go | 2:30 pm Short Program. \$1,000 Tournament Sponsor; \$600 Eagle Sponsor; \$200 Hole Sponsor; \$100 Golfer)
OHROC Lake Erie Boat Cruise and Reception with Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton), and Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Fremont), Catawba Island Club, 4235 E. Beach Club Road, Port Clinton, 5:30 p.m., (5:30pm Arrive at Catawba Island Club; 6:00pm Depart on Burger Yacht "Gemini"; 8:00pm Reception. Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to OHROC)

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Thursday, August 24

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser, London Country Club, 1199 Spring Valley Rd., London, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration | 10:00am Shotgun Start. \$1,000 Ace Sponsor, \$700 Eagle Sponsor, \$500 Cart Sponsorship, \$250 Hole Sponsorship, \$150 Cart Sponsorship, \$100 Tee Sponsorship, \$85 Individual to Hackett for Ohio)

Hamilton County GOP State Legislators golf outing fundraiser, Glenview Golf Course, 10965 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, 10 a.m., (\$1500 Sponsor; \$300 Hole Sponsor; \$175 Golfer)

Sunday, August 27

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) shooting fundraiser, Nagle Trucking, 4520 Moline-Martin Road, Walbridge, 1:30 p.m., (Expert: \$250; Sharpshooter: \$100 to Citizens for Gavarone)

Monday, August 28

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser, Moundbuilders Country Club, 125 N. 33rd Street, Newark, 10 a.m., (10:00am Registration; 11:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$2,500; Food and Beverage Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$750; Foursome: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$125; Green Sponsor: \$100 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

Wednesday, August 30

Rep. Adam Miller (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Condados Downtown, 132 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$500 or Suggested Donation: \$250 to Miller for Ohio)

Thursday, August 31

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) & Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fundraiser, Muirfield Village Country Club, 8715 Memorial Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$500 each committee to Citizens for Bill Beagle and Peterson for Good Government)
Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) fundraiser, Willoway Nursery, 4535 Center Rd. (Route 83), Avon, 5:30 p.m., (\$500 Lilac Sponsor - includes 6 tickets; \$400 Hydrangea Sponsor - includes 4 tickets; \$200 Rose Sponsor - includes 2 tickets; \$125 per Couple | \$75 per Person to Committee to Elect Manning)

Sunday, September 10

Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) Pig Roast Clam Bake fundraiser, Heidelberg Distributing Company, 9101 E. Pleasant Valley Road, Independence, 2 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Couple: \$140; Individual: \$75; Dozen Extra Clams: \$15 to Friends of Marlene B. Anielski)

Tuesday, September 12

Democratic gubernatorial debate, Martins Ferry High School, 5000 Ayers Limestone Rd., Martins Ferry
House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Athletic Club, Gold Rm., 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$5,000; Sponsor: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

Wednesday, September 13

Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Plank's Cafe, 743 Parsons Avenue, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Platinum Level - \$2,500; Gold Level - \$1,500; Silver Level - \$1,000; Bronze - \$500 or \$350 per person to Committee for Jim Hughes)
Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Romanchuk for State Rep)

Thursday, September 14

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) fundraiser, Pro Football Hall of Fame, 2121 George Halas Dr NW, Canton
Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) golf outing fundraiser, Kirtland Country Club, 39438 Kirtland Road, Willoughby, 10 a.m., (10:00am Brunch, 11:00am Golf. Friends of John Eklund)
Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) fundraiser, Cheney residence, 6988 Greensward Road, New Albany, 6 p.m., (\$1,000 Host | \$500 Sponsor | \$250 per Attendee to Citizens for Kevin Bacon)

Friday, September 15

Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Tamarac Golf Course, 500 N. Stevick Road, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$500; Foursome: \$400; Green Sponsor: \$350; Lunch Sponsor: \$250; Individual Golfer: \$125 to Cupp for State Representative Committee)

Monday, September 18

Sen. Cliff Hite (R-Findlay) golf outing fundraiser, Eagle Rock Country Club, 211 Carpenter Rd., Defiance, (The Committee to Elect Cliff Hite)

Tuesday, September 19

Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) fundraiser, Westies Gastropub, 940 S. Front Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Tavia Galonski)

Wednesday, September 20

Rep. Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) and Rep. Al Landis (R-Dover) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Brian D. Hill for State Representative and/or Friends for Allen Landis)
Rep. Andy Thompson (R-Marietta) and Rep. Wes Goodman (R-Cardington) fundraiser, The Keep, 50 W. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Andy Thompson for State Representative and/or Friends of Wes Goodman)

Thursday, September 21

Republican Senate Campaign Committee fundraiser, Basil's on Market, 312 N Patterson Boulevard, Dayton, 5:30 p.m., (\$5,000 Event Chair | \$2,500 Event Co-Chair | \$1,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Individual to RSCC)

Monday, September 25

Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) golf outing fundraiser, Cooks Creek Golf Club, 16405 U.S. Highway 23, Ashville, 11 a.m., (11:00am Registration and Lunch; 12:00pm Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,500; Green Sponsor: \$750; Foursome: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$125; Hole Sponsor: \$100 to Friends of Gary Scherer)
Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) golf outing fundraiser, Firestone Country Club, 452 East Warner Road, Akron, 11:30 a.m., (Lunch & Range Time 11:30am. Tee times starting at 1:05pm. \$300 Lunch Only | \$1,000 Lunch and Golf to LaRose for Ohio)

Thursday, September 28

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) shotgun and pig roast fundraiser, Hill'n Dale Club, 3605 Poe Road, Medina, 2 p.m., (2:30-3:00pm - Sign in/Registration/ Meet and greet with Senator Obhof in the Hill'n Dale Lodge; 3:00 pm - Clay Shooting: 5-Stand with Group or Optional Course on your Own. 5:00-6:00pm - Dinner. \$500 Distinguished Expert/Station Sponsor: \$250 Sharp Shooter: \$150 First Class: \$100 Marksman: \$75 Sponsor to Citizens for Obhof)

Friday, September 29

Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) Day at the Races fundraiser, Belterra, 6301 Kellogg Rd., Cincinnati, 12:30 p.m., (11:30am Park Opens | 12:30pm Lunch | 1:45pm Live Racing Begins. \$1500 Triple Crown | \$1,000 Champion | \$750 Winner's Circle | \$500 Thoroughbred | \$250 Jockey Club | \$100 per Attendee The Committee to Elect Joe Uecker)

Sunday, October 1

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$25 per Person or \$50 per Family to Peterson for Good Government)

Monday, October 2

OHROC Chairman's Cup golf outing fundraiser

Wednesday, October 4

Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Muirfield Village Country Club, 8715 Memorial Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$500 each committee to Troy Balderson for State Senate and Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Thursday, October 5

Sen. Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Schilderink residence, 9675 Cunningham Road, Cincinnati, 6 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Sunday, October 8

Republican gubernatorial candidate forum, Genoa Baptist Church, 7562 Lewis Center Rd., Westerville, 7 p.m., (Sponsored by Citizens for Community Values and Salem Media of Ohio)

Wednesday, October 11

Rep. Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Terry Johnson for State Rep)

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)
Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Fleming residence, 2374 Brixton Road, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Friday, October 13

OSBA Law & Media Conference, Ohio State Bar Association, 1700 Lake Shore Dr., Columbus, 9:30 a.m., (Registration at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Halle Malcomb, hmalcomb@ohiobar.org)

Tuesday, October 17

Republican Senate Campaign Committee pig roast fundraiser, Land Grant Brewery, 424 W. Town St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$10,000 Whole Hog Sponsor | \$5,000 Half Hog Sponsor | \$2,500 Loin Sponsor | \$1000 Bacon Sponsor | \$500 per Attendee to RSCC)

Wednesday, October 18

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Scioto Country Club, 2196 Riverside Dr., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Event Sponsor \$1000, Event Host \$500, \$150 per couple, \$100 per individual to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Thursday, October 19

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (Please make checks payable to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Wednesday, November 29

Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

Wednesday, February 28

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Luncheon, Renaissance Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., Columbus, 12 p.m.

Monday, June 4

**Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740
Worthington Rd., Westerville**

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OHIO REPORT FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Grading The State Report Card: Experts, Policy Makers Weigh In On How Ohio Assesses K-12 Education

Governor Candidates Tout Qualifications At GOP Central Committee

Portman, Brown Recommend Two Federal District Court Nominees

Senate Weighs Healthy Ohio Proposal, Looks At Submission Options

Abortion Totals Continued To Decline In 2016, State Reports

**Home Care Touted As Alzheimer's Dementia Option; Commerce
Publicizes Medical Pot License Applicants**

**Addiction Recovery Advocates Rally; State Awards Behavioral Health
Grants...**

**High Court Clarifies Record Sealing Law; Buckeye Institute Joins In
Public Sector Union Case; Ohio Professor Nominated For Federal
Judgeship...**

**Borges Issues Warning After OEC Ruling; Dems Pile On Over ECOT
Overpayments; Renacci Cancels NFL Ad**

Agency Briefs: Ohio Minimum Wage Rising In 2018; OPSB; USDA; ODA

Governor's Appointments

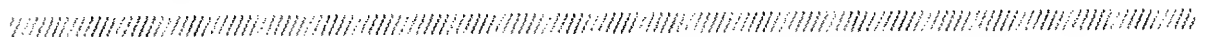
Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Attorney General's Opinion

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

CALENDARS



Day Planner

Legislative Committee Schedules

Event Planner

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Grading The State Report Card: Experts, Policy Makers Weigh In On How Ohio Assesses K-12 Education

From confusion and frustration to hopefulness and enlightenment, the responses to state report card grades released this month have run the gamut.

Schools and parents around the state have largely dismissed the rankings, which have dropped significantly since new standards were put in place a few years ago. Many have publicly criticized the grades, saying they're not rooted in reliable methods or just plain don't make sense.

A handful of education researchers and stakeholder groups, meanwhile, have released reports that rely on the report card data and tout its value in tracking trends. The analyses compare charter and traditional schools and gauge, among other things, how disadvantaged students are stacking up to their more privileged peers.

But, like them or not, report cards are here to stay. New federal K-12 laws continue to require states to assess students and schools as well as publish annual ratings.

So how then do policymakers and the K-12 community put an end to the report card frenzy that's become an annual occurrence since the state upped learning standards and moved to an A-F grading scale?

For some, the answer is to change how the bevy of school and testing data is presented.

Push For Change: Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) said he plans to introduce legislation and bring together a stakeholder group to overhaul report cards so that they no longer grade districts, but instead simply present information.

He said the goal is to fairly provide details of how schools are doing at educating students and quiet public distrust surrounding the current grading system.

"There seems to be an emerging consensus among superintendents and school boards of education and I think legislators are picking this up from the community and parents and from their own experience that report cards have been too volatile," Rep. Duffey said.

More than a dozen other states have instituted an A-F grading scale over the last few years. Like Ohio, many have put off handing out one overall grade to each district in an effort to ease into the change.

However, a handful may never get to that point in their reporting because of backlash to the grades. West Virginia, Alabama and Texas are just a few states debating how to move forward, according to reports.

Rep. Duffey said the public outcry in Ohio is already loud enough to require change, proving that parents and students think their schools are doing better than the report cards reflect.

Many districts, including wealthy suburban districts that were previously accustomed to getting As, have received Fs in a handful of categories over the past two years despite overall scores improving this year. Urban districts that have retooled their entire curricula and cultures say their progress isn't translating to higher report card scores.

"Parents are by and large siding with their school districts over the state, which means the state report card does not have the public's trust," he said. "When it doesn't have the public's trust, it fails to have value as a tool for the state."

The progress measure of the report card is the most-often challenged of the six graded components.

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell), who chairs the House Education Committee, said its calculation needs changed because it is a zero-sum ranking, meaning districts can only score better each year if they're making more progress in relation to the progress other schools have made.

For example, students at Olentangy Local Schools saw growth on average, but their progress component score was an F because there wasn't as much growth as experienced by students at Rocky River City Schools, which received an A, he said.

"If everybody else is doing OK, then they can fall off and I'm not really sure that that's what we should do," Rep. Brenner said.

"I think we need to make sure that we're giving the data to the schools and districts so they understand what they need to do to improve the districts if they're capable," and the current grading formula doesn't always allow that, he said.

Data analyst Howard Fleeter with the Ohio Education Policy Institute said he's supportive of the data that's gathered to inform the progress component, but also suggested there could be a better way to grade it.

"When I was teaching, I thought that if every student was worthy of an A, every student should get an A," he said.

Having closely analyzed report card data, Mr. Fleeter said he's grateful for the wealth of information Ohio collects, which is much more than other states.

Over the years, it's helped him find data trends that can predict how students will perform in the future, reveal persistent learning gaps rooted in poverty, and determine how much it costs to educate different types of students, among other things, he said.

However, when it comes to how the state compiles the data to determine grades, Mr. Fleeter said there'd be no love lost on his part if the state threw out its A-F scale.

"I think that the data that is on the report cards is valuable. I am less of a fan of the actual letter grades," he said.

"I think one way you could defend the letter grades is to say, 'There is so much data that's out there. That regular person needs some sort of a shorthand way to make sense out of it and that's what the letter grades do.' The problem is that the letter grades also lead to some shame."

When the learning standards weren't as stringent and the A-F scale wasn't yet introduced, nearly 300 districts received the highest rating of Excellent on state report cards, according to Department of Education records.

Now that many of those same schools are receiving low marks on report cards, their morale may be down, Mr. Fleeter said.

Rep. Brenner suggested that the change in report card rankings could also have a negative economic impact on the state. He said it could signal to businesses looking to move to Ohio that students are less prepared than they were a few years ago when grades were good, even though districts, parents and many lawmakers don't feel that's the case.

"If you get Fs on the report card, would a major company like Amazon take a look at that?" he questioned.

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) said she'd be willing to take legislative action to change report cards, which is the only way modifications can be made. It has to be under the right circumstances, though, she said.

"I'm always open to looking to make the report card a better vehicle that gives us more accurate information and if that's the goal, yes. If the goal is we don't like the results, so let's get rid of the report card, I'd be much more concerned, frankly," said Sen. Lehner, who chairs the Senate Education Committee.

"We need to make sure that the report card is an accurate tool of assessment, but we do need to make sure that we also assess."

Reframing Report Cards: In an effort to stem the wave of concerns that come with every report card release, Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria has continually stressed that viewers should look outside the box.

The Ohio School Boards Association advises its members to do the same, said Damon Asbury, the group's director of legislative services. Board members are also encouraged to highlight their districts' non-academic accomplishments.

"It's an important measure, it tells us a lot of information, but it's not the only measure of how to judge your school district and its progress," he said of report cards.

To aid in the push to reshape thinking, ODE this year introduced a section on the individual grade card pages where districts can link to websites highlighting their successes.

Although the aim has been to reframe the general public conversation about report cards, superintendent DeMaria said the importance of the data they provide should still be at the forefront for policy makers.

"It does not paint a complete picture of what is happening in our schools and districts across the state, but it does paint a picture of what's happening academically to a certain extent and it is something that we should pay attention to," he said.

In a presentation before the Speaker's Task Force on Education and Poverty, he said report card results show a clear connection between economically disadvantaged students and poor academic outcomes. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 28, 2017)

They also show that a few schools with high concentrations of disadvantaged students are also high achieving, meaning that those students can learn under the right circumstances, he said.

"It allows us then to dig into this phenomenon that we're here to talk about and that is understanding the achievement gaps and acknowledging them," Superintendent DeMaria said of the assessment results displayed through report cards.

Sen. Lehner said there's also a lot that can be learned from new report card indicators showing how Ohio students scored on the ACT and SAT, which are included in the Prepared for Success measure.

The scores were "abysmally low and seem to track pretty well with some of the other data that we're seeing in the report card and that should give a lot of people pause that the report card, as clumsy as it may be, as lengthy as it may be, that it actually is telling us something that we need to really sit up and pay attention to," she said.

When the first report cards were released about two decades ago, they only showed what percentage of students were proficient on new state exams in core subjects, how many students were graduating and school attendance rates.

The report cards now include six components, ten measures and a handful of ungraded data such as financial information. It takes into account student scores on more than a dozen standardized tests.

The state's data collection to assess schools has come a long way, Mr. Fleeter said. So while report cards shouldn't serve as the sole arbiter of whether schools are preparing students for the future, it wouldn't be wise to dismiss them.

"Now we have the ability to disaggregate the data and look at different types of students and you can compare them and you really can understand what's behind things and where the problems are to a greater degree," he said. "People tend to not think about it, but we are lucky that we have all this information that's out there because we can understand better what we're doing well and what we're not as a state."

Governor Candidates Tout Qualifications At GOP Central Committee

Three of Ohio's four Republican gubernatorial candidates on Friday worked to sway a room full of party leaders on why they should top the ballot heading into the 2018 election.

Secretary of State Jon Husted, U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor each spoke before the GOP State Central Committee at a Columbus-area convention center. Attorney General Mike DeWine, also a candidate for the top executive office, was unable to attend.

Although Ohio Republican Party chairwoman Jane Timken remains adamant the party will not endorse to avoid tipping the primary scales, each statewide GOP contender was given the chance to appear before the committee.

Mr. Husted kicked off the remarks, touting his endorsements from pro-gun groups and his outreach through ten satellite call centers that have already made more than 20,000 calls.

"We outraised all candidates for this race," Mr. Husted said. "And you haven't seen anything yet. We're going to continue to build on that momentum and I'm really excited about it."

Emphasizing his efforts to streamline the business filing process and make his office self-sufficient, he positioned himself as a candidate who will follow through on his promises and thereby restore the faith of jaded voters who are frustrated with the system.

"I believe I can do the best job for you, that I can be the voice of the Republican party and the voice of the State of Ohio that will bring new ideas," Mr. Husted said.

Rep. Renacci, meanwhile, held true to his campaign strategy of painting himself as a Donald Trump-style outsider surrounded by candidates representing the status quo.

He struck a more conciliatory tone than his first television ad, however, giving some praise to Gov. John Kasich and stating that the party has "strong candidates." His TV spot released Thursday, the first of the campaign, blasted his three primary opponents as "Columbus fat cats."

Rep. Renacci described his background as a business owner who has created jobs and said voters are looking for a different type of candidate at the ballot.

"That's who I am," he said. "I'm an individual who hasn't spent my entire life in politics. That's the direction we need to take -- a little bit different vision."

Lt. Gov. Taylor emphasized her past election performance, including her status as the only Republican to win statewide office during the 2006 election when Democrats swept into office.

"We need a candidate in the general election who can win in November no matter what the political landscape looks like," she said. "And I win elections. Period."

She highlighted her tax and healthcare proposals, including her desire to eliminate Medicaid expansion, and pointed to her leadership of the Common Sense Initiative as a testament to her desire to curb government regulations.

Without naming names, she also seemed to downplay her rivals' fundraising strength and the advantage of Mr. DeWine's name recognition.

"People in our state, they choose our leaders," she said. "If money and a family name was all that mattered in races, Jeb Bush would be our nominee and Hillary Clinton would be our president today."

David Pepper, Ohio Democratic Party's chairman, in response called the Republican's primary gubernatorial race "one big race to the right."

"The Republican candidates are focused on nasty attacks against one another, while our Democratic candidates are focused on addressing the concerns of voters," Mr. Pepper said. "We've had 57 straight months of job growth trailing the national average, we're struggling to deal with the nation's worst opioid crisis and our public school system has fallen from fifth in the nation to 22nd. The Republican status quo isn't working for Ohio, and Democrats will represent change in 2018."

Other candidates seeking statewide office that addressed the group include Treasurer Josh Mandel, a U.S. Senate hopeful, Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina), who's running for state auditor, and Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay), a state treasurer candidate.

Endorsements: The group's endorsement policy review committee also recommended the party take no stance on Issue 1 -- the Ohio Crime Victims Bill of Rights -- or Issue 2 - the Ohio Drug Price Relief Act. The full committee accepted that recommendation with no discussion.

The Republican committee did officially endorse a pair of Ohio Supreme Court candidates: Judge Mary DeGenaro and Judge Craig Baldwin.

Judge DeGenaro, of the Seventh District Court of Appeals, and Judge Baldwin, of the Fifth District Court of Appeals, are running for seats occupied by age-limited Justices Terrence O'Donnell and Bill O'Neil.

In other business, the committee also appointed Katie DeLand to the 12th District seat formerly held by Becky Engel.

Portman, Brown Recommend Two Federal District Court Nominees

The state's two U.S. senators on Friday announced recommendations to fill two seats on the federal bench - and one could mean a change in Gov. John Kasich's cabinet.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) have recommended Bureau of Workers' Compensation Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison to fill a seat on the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Ohio soon to be vacated by retiring Judge Thomas Rose.

The lawmakers also forwarded to the White House a recommendation that Fourth District Court of Appeals Judge Matt McFarland fill the seat on the same court vacated by Judge Gregory Frost.

"I am honored to be considered for the position of federal district judge, and I sincerely appreciate the support of Senators Portman and Brown," Ms. Morrison said in a statement. "As the approval process moves forward, I remain committed to serving Ohio's employers and injured workers at the Bureau of Workers' Compensation."

Sen. Portman said Ms. Morrison "enjoys sweeping support for this seat because of her breadth of experience in the public and private sectors, including her time as CEO of Ohio's Bureau of Workers Compensation."

Ms. Morrison, who would serve from Columbus, has led the BWC since May 2016 after joining the bureau in November 2012. Prior to that, she was a partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP in Columbus.

She has a law degree from Capital University.

Judge McFarland, who would serve from the court in Dayton, was elected to the state appellate court in 2004 and reelected in 2010 and 2016. Prior to that, he served as a magistrate in the Scioto County Common Pleas Court Probate/Juvenile Division. He also served as an assistant prosecutor in Scioto and Licking counties and as special counsel in the attorney general's office.

He also has a law degree from Capital University.

"It is truly an honor to continue to serve the citizens of Ohio and if nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, I will work tirelessly to make Ohio proud in the administration of justice," he said.

Sen. Portman said Judge McFarland has "been a dedicated public servant in the state court of appeals."

"His esteemed reputation is well deserved and I am confident he will continue to distinguished service on the bench," he said.

Sen. Brown said in both cases he was proud to join his colleague in a bipartisan process and thanked both Ms. Morrison and Judge McFarland for their willingness to serve.

Both were recommended to the senators by a bipartisan advisory committee.

The recommendations will be vetted by the White House and the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee before being considered by the upper chamber.

Senate Weighs Healthy Ohio Proposal, Looks At Submission Options

The Healthy Ohio Medicaid waiver proposal appears to be getting a new look by the Senate, but it's not clear if the chamber will vote to override Gov. John Kasich's veto or approach the effort another way.

The proposal, which was included in the previous budget and rejected by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, was included again in the current budget (HB 49) but vetoed by the governor.

The waiver has drawn questions as to whether it could gain federal approval due to the lack of flexibility the legislation would give the state in negotiating with federal regulators. Nevertheless, some officials say they are optimistic that the Trump administration would be more receptive to the plan than President Barack Obama's.

"I have had positive conversations with the administration in Washington about the Healthy Ohio waiver," Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said this week. "I look forward to additional conversations about that, whether the language that is currently pending in the override is exactly right or not, or if there's changes that we could make to that as separate legislation."

Sen. Obhof said the question of whether or not the Senate takes up the proposal would hinge on the continued debate over the Affordable Care Act at the federal level.

"I do anticipate that if the Medicaid expansion is here for the next few months, at some point we're going to re-evaluate the Healthy Ohio plan and whether to move ahead with the override or introduce additional legislation," he said.

The waiver request would allow the state to have certain Medicaid enrollees pay into modified health savings accounts, which would be used to cover co-pays. The state would also contribute to the accounts, with that money acting as a deductible. People who move off of Medicaid would then be able to use the money left over to cover insurance and other expenses

Some, including members of a Senate committee that discussed waivers this week, have said the current proposal might be too detailed and prescriptive, and would not allow the state to negotiate changes with CMS to earn approval. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 26, 2017)

In his veto message, Gov. Kasich said the proposal has already been rejected by the federal government once.

"The Administration shares the goal of expanding Ohio's flexibility in managing our Medicaid programs, and is committed to working with the General Assembly to seek achievable solutions that would accomplish this goal," he wrote. "Requiring Medicaid to seek an identical waiver for the Healthy Ohio Program would be duplicative and an ill-advised use of Medicaid resources."

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood), one of the architects of the proposal, said the state is still able to negotiate changes with CMS despite how prescriptive it is in code.

"In terms of flexibility in negotiations, there is absolutely nothing in statute that would prohibit changes being made and then being ratified by the legislature," he said in an interview.

Rep. Butler said the Senate should follow the House's lead and vote to override the veto. He said the intent was never to have the administration go to the federal government and say "take it or leave it" with what was passed by the legislature. Any changes requested by CMS could then be approved by the General Assembly.

"Anything to the contrary, I think, is an excuse for not submitting a waiver that would have meaning for our health care system and truly control health care costs," he said.

Abortion Totals Continued To Decline In 2016, State Reports

The number of abortions in Ohio continued its more than decade-long decline in 2016, falling to just above 20,000, according to figures released Friday.

The Department of Health reported a total of 20,672 abortions in the state in 2016, down about 1% from the prior year's total of 20,976.

Of those, 19,543 were obtained by Ohio residents. Since 2001, the annual decline has averaged about 900 per year, ODH said.

The abortion rate was 8.9 per 1,000 resident women ages 15-44, which was unchanged from 2015, the agency reported. There were 142 abortions by Ohio residents per 1,000 live births.

The number of abortions, which has been tracked since 1976, peaked at more than 45,000 in 1982.

Ohio Right to Life credited the decline to anti-abortion policies enacted at the state level.

"This report is further proof of how successful the pro-life movement has been in Ohio" Mike Gonidakis, the group's president, said in a statement. "This past year alone, we saw 304 lives saved from the pain and suffering of abortion. We continue to advance groundbreaking legislation to protect the unborn, and we thank Governor John Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly for their role in promoting a culture of life in Ohio. By enacting common sense and life-saving initiatives Ohio is protecting both mothers and their babies."

The group touted legislation it's currently pushing for in the General Assembly, including bills to ban abortions due to a Down syndrome diagnosis (HB 214, SB 164) and to ban "dismemberment" abortions (SB 145).

"The historic low of abortions reported today indicates that the culture of life we've strived for is becoming a reality," Mr. Gonidakis said. "That being said, Ohio Right to Life is whole-heartedly committed to fighting for the sanctity of human life, until the Abortion Report is unnecessary because there are no more abortions committed in Ohio."

NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio Deputy Director Jaime Miracle pointed to an increase in the number of non-surgical abortions, from 1,195 in 2015 to 3,818 in 2016. She said that showed the effects of a change by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to allow for a one-pill dosage of a medication used in non-surgical abortions.

"The real story with this year's report is that Ohio women are accessing more affordable medication abortion at a rate closer to before Ohio law required physicians to use an outdated, less effective, more expensive protocol," she said in a statement. "When health care policy is shaped by science, not politics, women win. This report shows that the new FDA protocol allows women to access the health care they need and choose the abortion method that is best for them."

Ms. Miracle said Ohio's nine facilities were able to provide safe, legal and affordable abortions to more than 20,000 women in Ohio.

"Unfortunately, Governor John Kasich and his band of usual suspects have wasted the taxpayers' time and money in pushing illegal and immoral tactics designed to block access to abortion clinics," she said. "Since taking office, Governor Kasich has signed 18 restrictions limiting access to reproductive healthcare in Ohio. Everyone deserves access to safe, affordable reproductive health care, including abortion, in their communities and we will continue to fight to ensure this is the reality in Ohio."

Home Care Touted As Alzheimer's Dementia Option; Commerce Publicizes Medical Pot License Applicants

People suffering from dementia can receive support in their homes, allowing them to stay out of nursing facilities and assisted living longer, the House Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia was told this week.

Joe Russell, executive director of the Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice, told the task force that providing care for people in their own homes and communities is a quality of life issue.

Family caregivers often face a stressful and constant task of looking after loved ones with Alzheimer's and dementia, he said. Providing scheduled respite services and other in-home services can ease the burden on family members without them having to turn to institutional facilities.

Mr. Russell said the Department of Aging has explored a shared living service under the PASSPORT Medicaid waiver, which would allow a live-in caregiver to provide support in the senior's home. He said his group supports the concept but was concerned about the proposed reimbursement rates.

He said the state could also look at programs to allow for 24-hour in-home care for people with limited family supports. That could include a waiver that allows for personal care, homemaking and companion services provided by a live-in provider supplemented by home care aides in shifts, and monitoring technology.

"In the long run, this system would most likely be less costly than institutional care as well as provide an environment that is familiar and stable for the individual to help them remain part of their community for as long as their health allows them to do so," he said in testimony. "This arrangement would allow the individual to maintain their daily routines that are vital to their quality of life and overall health, as well as make it easier for interaction with family and friends in their community."

The task force also heard from Susan Dickey, who works with the Greater Cincinnati Area Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. She discussed practice recommendations as part of the association's Quality Care Campaign.

"In the long run, this system would most likely be less costly than institutional care as well as provide an environment that is familiar and stable for the individual to help them remain part of their community for as long as their health allows them to do so," she said in prepared testimony. "This arrangement would allow the individual to maintain their daily routines that are vital to their quality of life and overall health, as well as make it easier for interaction with family and friends in their community."

She said the recommendations could be used as a foundation for evaluating clinical outcomes for care in the state.

Medical Marijuana Updates: The Department of Commerce Friday released information from the applications for cultivator licenses. The business entity and contact information forms for the 185 applicants for those licenses are now available online.

The DOC anticipates awarding cultivator licenses in November.

Earlier this week, the DOC announced that two universities - Central State University and Hocking College - had applied for laboratory applications. The department said it would accept applications from private testing laboratories between Nov. 27 and Dec. 8.

Addiction Recovery Advocates Rally; State Awards Behavioral Health Grants...

Advocates in the fight against addiction gathered at the Statehouse Friday in the annual Rally for Recovery, emphasizing the importance of family and community members in supporting people battling substance use disorder.

The event hosted by Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery featured advocacy groups and providers offering information about social supports for people with addiction. Those who received awards included Gov. John Kasich, who was recognized with the Recovery Ally Award for his work promoting policy to fight drug addiction and expanding Medicaid.

Tracy Plouck, director of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, said the rally was a way to demonstrate the importance of supporting people battling substance abuse.

"This is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about how many people around our state are actually living in recovery," she said in an interview. "They're in all neighborhoods, all communities, and recovery is possible. I think this is an opportunity to reduce stigma and show that it isn't just individuals who are living in recovery. It's families, it's neighbors, it's employers, everybody can come together and provide support."

Director Plouck said community supports are essential in helping people who start down the path to recovery stay there.

"Clinical services are increasingly available because of the Medicaid expansion and the changes that have occurred in the last few years, but the availability of different recovery supports is equally important, really," she said. "You can connect with sobriety, but you need supports in the community, you need to not feel isolated in order to sustain that recovery."

Speakers included Joe Smith, a father of three daughters who suffer from addiction, who said recovery takes more than one person.

"It takes the community to recover," he said. "Each one of us who recovers helps facilitate the recovery of others."

Behavioral Health Grants: ODMHAS announced \$6 million in grants this week for community mental health and addiction service providers. The funding was awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to certified providers who intended to initiate or expand workforce capacity through training, tuition reimbursement and loan repayment programs.

"Ohio, like the rest of the nation is experiencing challenges to recruit, retain and support, on a long term basis, our existing workforce in community behavioral health agencies," Director Plouck said in a statement. "These grants represent another step forward as we work collectively to build a highly-qualified workforce and significantly increase system capacity at a time when communities continue to face serious challenges with opioid addiction and mental illness."

The department sent award notices to 61 providers across the state, who were each eligible for one-time funding up to \$100,000.

Pharmacy Grant: The State Board of Pharmacy this week also announced it received a grant worth nearly \$400,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice to fund a two-year pre-criminal intervention program to deal with prescription drug abuse.

The program will use data from the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System to identify signs of prescription drug abuse and connect those people with drug treatment or other support services.

"The goal of the program is to prevent addicted individuals from entering the criminal justice system," Pharmacy Board Executive Director Steven Schierholt said. "By engaging early, we can direct individuals to treatment before they turn to illicit, and more potent, drugs such as heroin or fentanyl."

High Court Clarifies Record Sealing Law; Buckeye Institute Joins In Public Sector Union Case; Ohio Professor Nominated For Federal Judgeship...

A trial court is under no obligation to wait until the statute of limitations expires to seal the records in a case dismissed without prejudice, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled.

The decision authored by Justice Terrence O'Donnell resolves a conflict between the Fifth District Court of Appeals and the Eighth District Court of Appeals.

"Had the legislature intended for the applicable statute of limitations in a case dismissed without prejudice to expire before a trial court can seal a record under R.C. 2953.52(B)(4), it could have used the language it did in R.C. 2953.52(B)(3) regarding applications to seal records of DNA specimens. But it did not do so," he wrote.

The conflict was certified after James Dye of Pickerington had five misdemeanor charges against him dismissed without prejudice in the Fairfield County Municipal Court. He unsuccessfully sought to have the dismissal sealed by the trial court, a decision that was upheld by the Fifth District Court of Appeals, the high court reported.

Mr. Dye argued that both courts erred in determining that he was not eligible to have the records sealed because the statute of limitations had not expired.

The state, like Mr. Dye, argued that the statute is unambiguous. However, it said the language clearly makes him ineligible to have his record sealed until the statute of limitations expires.

Justice O'Donnell was joined in his opinion by five of his fellow members of the court, while Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor concurred in judgement only.

Union Case: The Buckeye Institute has joined a legal battle that could have major implications for public sector unions.

The group filed an amicus brief in the case of *Janus v. AFSCME*, which is currently before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mark Janus, a child support specialist in Illinois, argues that being forced to pay agencies fees after opting out of his collective bargaining unit is a violation of his First Amendment rights.

"We are pleased that the Supreme Court will take up this crucial case to protect the First Amendment rights of public employees," President and CEO Robert Alt said. "Forcing employees to pay for speech with which they disagree and forcing them to pay fees to a union in order to keep their jobs is unjust and unconstitutional. We are confident that Mr. Janus will prevail and that the court will rule in favor of the First Amendment rights of all public employees."

Federal Judgeship: President Donald Trump has nominated Ryan T. Holte to serve on the bench of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Mr. Holte currently serves as an associate professor of law and the director of the Center for Intellectual Property Law and Technology at the University of Akron School of Law.

He serves as general counsel, partner, and co-inventor of an electrical engineering technology company. He also worked as a trial attorney at the Federal Trade Commission, practiced law as an associate at Jones Day and clerked for a judge on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Federal Grant: An eight-state collaborative formed to combat the opioid crisis will receive a \$1 million federal grant to aid in its efforts, the high court announced Friday.

The Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative - comprised of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia - was awarded the grant by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance.

"Our regional effort serves as a bridge connecting key leaders and staff from law enforcement, to courts, to treatment providers, to children services and other aid organizations," Chief Justice O'Connor said. "This grant will go a long way toward helping close the information, enforcement, services and treatment gaps that have allowed this epidemic to fester and grow."

Volunteers Honored: Fourteen individuals who lead tours at the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center were honored for their service by all seven high court justices during a luncheon, according to the court.

"Your knowledge and enthusiasm are appreciated throughout the building by the staff and the justices," Chief Justice O'Connor said. "I want you to know that. Those of us who work here, and you by extension, as being a face with many of the students that come into this building, are extremely proud of the building and proud of what you do for us in showcasing the building and this institution."

Judicial Candidates: The Board of Professional Conduct announced its 2018 schedule of seminars for judicial candidates.

Disciplinary Hearings: The Board of Professional Conduct also announced disciplinary hearings scheduled for October.

Borges Issues Warning After OEC Ruling; Dems Pile On Over ECOT Overpayments; Renacci Cancels NFL Ad

An Elections Commission ruling could drastically alter the landscape of elections in Ohio, a former chairman of the Ohio Republican Party said Friday.

Matt Borges, who is now working for the Yes on Issue 2 campaign, said the panel's Thursday decision to dismiss two complaints against the opponents of a November ballot measure could open the door for political campaigns to use LLCs as pass-through entities to avoid financial disclosures.

Dismissed were complaints that the opposition PAC, Ohioans Against Issue 2, intentionally hid the source of its fundraising and violated state campaign finance disclosure laws. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 28, 2017)

Both complaints filed by the Yes campaign centered on the idea that PhARMA, a trade association of the pharmaceutical industry, was used as a pass-through entity to conceal millions of dollars of contributions from the drug industry to the PAC.

"If they had to do some long-term damage to Ohio to get what they want, they had no problem with that," Mr. Borges said. "They have been trying to keep folks in the dark throughout this entire campaign."

But Dale Butland, a spokesman for the No campaign, said the letter of the law was followed.

"If Matt Borges and the Yes side believe that Ohio law should be changed, then they should go to the legislature and ask them to do that," he said.

Mr. Butland also said Mr. Borges complaint about the dismissal is emblematic of a campaign in a "death spiral."

"The reason that they are going to lose isn't because there hasn't been enough debates, it's not because our side is not following the law, it's because they have a lousy proposal that will do great damage to this state and its people," he said.

ECOT Overpayments: With the announcement Thursday that the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow will be docked an additional \$19 million for overpayments, one gubernatorial candidate is calling for the school to be "expelled."

Betty Sutton called the school's proposed change in status to a dropout and recovery institution a "sham."

"A failing school shouldn't be allowed to teach at-risk kids just so it can continue to rip off taxpayers. When a school lies and cheats they should be expelled. It's plain and simple. If they can't do basic math, they should not pretend to teach Ohio's kids," the Democrat said.

"It is beyond ridiculous that a sham school that leads Ohio in dropouts would be designated a dropout recovery school. We need to make Ohio the opportunity state by providing a good education for our children and that starts with expelling ECOT."

A Department of Education audit found that ECOT last year over-reported the number of full-time students it enrolls by 18.5% (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 28, 2017)

The online charter school has already been order to repay \$60 million from the 2015-16 school year.

Renacci Ad: Those watching the Cleveland Browns take on the Cincinnati Bengals this weekend will not be learning about U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci's gubernatorial campaign.

The Alliance Republican announced Friday that he has canceled a \$20,000 ad buy during the game in the wake of a growing number of NFL players using the National Anthem as a platform to protest what they believe is racial injustice.

"While the First Amendment clearly affords NFL players and officials the freedom to engage in this appalling behavior, having the right to do something does not mean it's the right thing to do. Throughout our nation's history, countless American men and women of all backgrounds and races have sacrificed deeply to protect and preserve the ideals that our nation and its flag stand for - and our National Anthem serves as a tribute to that sacrifice that we should honor, not disparage," he said.

"And while the right to speak and protest peacefully is a fundamental freedom that we as Americans enjoy, protesting the most sacred symbols of those freedoms is both sadly ironic and an inexcusable, offensive display of contempt for what our nation stands for."

Harbaugh Endorsement: Ken Harbaugh, who is seeking to oust U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-Lakeview), announced that the Communications Workers of America has endorsed his candidacy in the 7th Congressional District.

"I am honored to have this endorsement from CWA. Ohio workers are among the best in the world. We need to fight for fair trade agreements and give our hard-working men and women a level playing field on which to compete," the Democrat said. "Folks working full-time jobs can and should be able to support their families. CWA is fighting for these improvements and so am I."

Added CWA District 4 Vice President Linda Hinton: "Ken's education, military background, and the fact he has spent a life helping others, show the experience and character needed to make workers and working families a priority."

Agency Briefs: Ohio Minimum Wage Rising In 2018; OPSB; USDA; ODA

Ohio's minimum wage will rise to \$8.30 per hour next year, up about 2% alongside the rate of inflation, the Department of Commerce announced Friday.

The \$8.30 wage applies to non-tipped employees at businesses with gross annual receipts of more than \$305,000 per year. For tipped employees, the new minimum wage will be \$4.15 per hour.

The current minimum wage is \$8.15 for non-tipped employees and \$4.08 for tipped employees.

For people who work at companies with gross receipts below \$305,000, and for 14- and 15-year-olds, the minimum wage will be the federal rate of \$7.25 per hour.

The state increase stems from an increase of 1.9% in the consumer price index.

Public Utilities: The Power Siting Board will hold a hearing Dec. 5 to allow the public to voice views about a proposal by Vinton Solar Energy LLC to build a solar-powered electric generation facility in Vinton county.

The hearing will take place at 6 p.m. that day at the Vinton County Community Building in McArthur.

The proposed facility would include arrays of solar panels with a combined generating capacity of up to 125 megawatts. It would be located on 1,950 acres of leased land in Elk Township, and the facility would be connected to the grid through American Electric Power's nearby Elk substation.

The adjudicatory hearing in the case will be at 10 a.m. Dec. 15 at the PUCO offices in Columbus.

U.S. Department of Agriculture: The department will award a \$22,910 solid waste management grant to Mahoning County, U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles) announced. The money will help fund the county's solid waste management district's rural recycling education and awareness program.

"I am pleased to announce this federal funding for Mahoning County," Rep. Ryan said in a statement.

"When it comes to preserving our environment for our kids, like many other issues, change starts at home. I am encouraged to see state and local governments like Mahoning County continuing to lead the charge on sustainability education. This funding will give rural Mahoning County an important boost, and represents a crucial federal investment. As long as I am in Congress, I will continue to fight to bring these important funds back to Northeast Ohio."

Agriculture: Gov. John Kasich on Friday signed an executive order creating an emergency rule on inflatable amusement ride safety inspections related to a change in the biennial budget bill.

The measure (HB 49) eliminated the statutory inspection fee for rides and granted authority to the Department of Agriculture director to develop rules for the fee structure.

The emergency rule announced in the EO will fill the gap until ODO develops the final rules for the inspections.

Governor's Appointments

State Dental Board: Theodore T. Bauer, DDS of Columbus for a term beginning September 29, 2017, and ending April 6, 2021.

Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board: Jaime L. Darr, DDS of Massillon for a term beginning September 29, 2017, and ending January 28, 2019.

Ohio Expositions Commission: John R. Page of Lewis Center for a term beginning September 29, 2017, and ending December 1, 2020.

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the Gongwer website.

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com.

Attorney General's Opinion

No. 2017-032. Requested by Williams County Prosecuting Attorney Katherine J. Zartman. SYLLABUS:

A person may not serve simultaneously as prosecuting attorney of Williams County and member of a joint-county board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services of a joint-county alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health service district of which Williams County is a part.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Monday, October 2

Banking Commission, 77 South High Street, Room East B on the 31st floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, October 3

BRAC & Military Affairs Task Force, Rickenbacker Air Guard Base, 7370 Minuteman Way, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, October 4

Board of Building Appeals, Ohio Department of Transportation, District Three Office, Conference Room, 906 Clark Avenue, Ashland, 8:30 a.m.

Real Estate Commission, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor, Columbus, 9 a.m.

Thursday, October 5

Power Siting Board, 180 E. Broad St., Room 11B, Columbus, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, October 6

Board of Building Standards, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Tuesday, October 3


Ohio Domestic Violence Network to recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Museum Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

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Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, September 30- Monday, October 2

Legislative Committees

Thursday, October 12

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m.

Agency Calendar

Monday, October 2

Banking Commission, 77 South High Street, Room East B on the 31st floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Speaker's Task Force on Heroin, Opioids, Prevention, Education, and Safety, MetroHealth, Scott Auditorium, Cleveland, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Sunday, October 1

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (5:15-6:15pm: Welcome Reception & Hall of Fame Tours; 6:15pm-8:15: Program & Dinner; 8:20pm-10:00pm: Live Music with the Four Keeps; 10:00pm: After Party Reception at the M-Bar)

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$25 per Person or \$50 per Family to Peterson for Good Government)

Monday, October 2

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (10:30am: Golf Outing Start (registration begins at 8:30am); 1:00pm: First Ladies Library Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 2:00pm: President McKinley Museum Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 3:00pm-4:00pm: OLBC Cookout/Reception at the National Historic Clearview Golf Course)

Lobbyist and Employer Activity & Expenditure Reports for the May-August 2017 reporting period are due

OHROC Chairman's Cup golf outing fundraiser, Virtues Golf Club, 1 Long Drive, Nashport, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Host: \$5,000; Event Sponsor: \$2,500; Tee Sponsor: \$1,250; Foursome: \$1,000; Individual Golfer: \$250; Reception Only: \$100 to OHROC)

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Legislative Committee Schedules beginning 10/2/2017

Monday, October 2

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 3

Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (Chr. Hottinger, J., 466-5838), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of William Sanderson, Ohio Housing Finance Agency

- HB 52** **DEED SOLICITATION (Rezabek, J.)** To regulate the solicitation of certain deeds. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 120** **DEBT ADJUSTING (Eklund, J.)** Regarding debt adjusting (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)
- SB 121** **MAMMOGRAM COVERAGE (Eklund, J.)** To include tomosynthesis as part of required screening mammography benefits under health insurance policies. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 169** **TRAVEL INSURANCE (Wilson, S.)** To oversee the sale of travel insurance. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 199** **MORTGAGE LENDING (Blessing, L.)** To create the Ohio Residential Mortgage Lending Act for the purpose of regulating all non-depository lending secured by residential real estate and to limit the application of the current Mortgage Loan Law to unsecured loans and loans secured by other than residential real estate. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Bacon, K., 466-8064), North Hearing Rm., 10:15 a.m.

- SB 195** **DOGS LAW (Beagle, B.)** To revise provisions of the Dogs Law governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs, to revise enforcement of that Law, and to establish a notification process regarding complaints of certain violations of that Law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 196** **BULLYING (Williams, S.)** To create the offense of aggravated bullying, a third-degree misdemeanor. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 130** **FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT (Tavares, C.)** To add two judges to the Domestic Relations Division of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to be elected in 2018. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 150** **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Brown, E.)** To prohibit a person convicted of domestic violence or assault of a family member, or a person subject to certain protection orders, from having a firearm; to establish a procedure for surrendering all firearms in the person's possession; and to name the act the "Domestic Violence Survivors Protection Act." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- SB 138** **INMATE SEARCHES (Eklund, J.)** To authorize a corrections officer to cause a body cavity search to be conducted, to establish separate rules and restrictions for conducting strip searches, and to limit the right of any person to commence a civil action for a violation of the law governing body cavity searches and strip searches to violations related to body cavity searches. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SCR 6** **EXTRADITION (O'Brien, S.)** To urge the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, and the Congress of the United States to compel Brazil to extradite Claudia Hoerig to stand trial for the aggravated murder of her husband, Major Karl Hoerig, and to request that the United States terminate foreign aid payments to Brazil if Claudia Hoerig is not extradited. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SCR 10** **GAULT DECISION (Thomas, C.)** To recognize 2017 as the fiftieth anniversary of In re Gault. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 171** **PROTECTION ORDERS (Hottinger, J.)** To increase the penalty that applies to the offense of violating a protection order under certain circumstances and to require electronic monitoring of those convicted of violating certain protection orders to be carried out by probation agencies. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- House Aging & Long Term Care (Committee Record) (Chr. Arndt, S., 644-6011), Rm. 122, 2:30 p.m.
- Presentation from Dr. Robert Applebaum of the Scripps Gerontology Center: "Policy Does Matter: Continued Progress in Providing Long Term Services and Supports for Ohio's Older Population"
- HB 286** **PALLIATIVE CARE (LaTourette, S.)** To create the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council, to establish the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program, and to require health care facilities to identify patients and residents who could benefit from palliative care. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)
- House Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Cupp, R., 466-9624), Rm. 116, 3 p.m.
- HB 239** **SECURITY RESOURCES (Smith, R., Carfagna, R.)** To allow electric distribution utilities to recover costs for a national security generation resource. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid (Committee Record) (Chr. Burke, D., 466-8049), South Hearing Rm., 3:15 p.m.
- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Joshua Cox, Benjamin Fields and Megan Marchal, State Board of Pharmacy; Michael Gonidakis, State Medical Board and Robert Schuerger, II, Ohio Athletic Commission
- HB 145** **CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT (Huffman, S., Sprague, R.)** To provide for the establishment of a confidential program for the treatment of certain impaired practitioners and to declare an emergency. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 143** **DAY DESIGNATION (Eklund, J.)** To designate September 25 as 'International Ataxia Awareness Day' in Ohio. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 111** **MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS (Carfagna, R., Ryan, S.)** To authorize certain advanced practice registered nurses to have a person involuntarily transported to a hospital for a mental health examination. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Wednesday, October 4

Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Eklund, J., 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

HB 118 **PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS** (Merrin, D.) To expressly prohibit the dismissal of a property tax complaint for failure to correctly identify the property owner. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 186 **BUSINESS INCOME** (Peterson, B.) To provide that wages and guaranteed payments paid by a professional employer organization to the owner of a pass-through entity that has contracted with the organization may be considered business income. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & Interested party)

HB 69 **TIF DISTRICTS** (Cupp, R.) To require reimbursement of certain township fire and emergency medical service levy revenue forgone because of the creation of a municipal tax increment financing district. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

House Transportation & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Green, D., 644-6034), Rm. 017, 10 a.m.

- Presentations on autonomous and connected vehicles from Jonathan Weinberger, VP of Innovation and Technology for the Auto Alliance and Josh Fisher, manager state government affairs for Global Automakers

Tuesday, October 10

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 11 a.m.

- If needed
Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

- If needed
Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

- If needed

Wednesday, October 11


Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 12

Ohio Retirement Study Council (Committee Record) (Chr. Schuring, K., 228-1346), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.

NOTE: Click bill or resolution number links to see the legislative history compiled by Gongwer News Service. Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill. Click "Full Text" if present to view the text of legislation on the Legislature's Web site.

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Event Planner

Sunday, October 1

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (5:15-6:15pm: Welcome Reception & Hall of Fame Tours; 6:15pm-8:15: Program & Dinner; 8:20pm-10:00pm: Live Music with the Four Keeps; 10:00pm: After Party Reception at the M-Bar)

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$25 per Person or \$50 per Family to Peterson for Good Government)

Monday, October 2

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (10:30am: Golf Outing Start (registration begins at 8:30am); 1:00pm: First Ladies Library Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 2:00pm: President McKinley Museum Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 3:00pm-4:00pm: OLBC Cookout/Reception at the National Historic Clearview Golf Course)

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OHROC Chairman's Cup golf outing fundraiser, Virtues Golf Club, 1 Long Drive, Nashport, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Host: \$5,000; Event Sponsor: \$2,500; Tee Sponsor: \$1,250; Foursome: \$1,000; Individual Golfer: \$250; Reception Only: \$100 to OHROC)

Tuesday, October 3

Ohio Domestic Violence Network to recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Museum Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 4

Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Muirfield Village Country Club, 8715 Memorial Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$500 each committee to Troy Balderson for State Senate and Citizens for Stephanie Kunze) Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) cigar fundraiser, Lexi's, 100 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Thursday, October 5

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Hidden Creek Golf Club, 6245 Sugar Creek Lane, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration | 10:00am Shotgun Start. \$1,000 Event Sponsor | \$400 per Team | \$200 Tee Sponsor | \$100 per Golfer to Matt Huffman for Ohio)

Sen. Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Schilderink residence, 9675 Cunningham Road, Cincinnati, 6 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Sunday, October 8

Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) family picnic, Warren County Armco Park, 1223 OH-741, Lebanon, 1 p.m.
Republican gubernatorial candidate forum, Genoa Baptist Church, 7562 Lewis Center Rd., Westerville, 7 p.m., (Sponsored by Citizens for Community Values and Salem Media of Ohio)

Tuesday, October 10

Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Niraj Antani)
Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton) and Rep. Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Rezabek and/or Manning for Ohio)
Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Gold Room, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Matt Huffman for Ohio)
Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Columbus), Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Lounge, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Citizens for Kevin Bacon or The Committee to Elect Joe Uecker)
Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) and Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Parlors A&B, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Friends of Matt Dolan Or Citizens for Hottinger)

Wednesday, October 11

Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) fundraiser, Dempsey's, 346 S. High St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Team West)
Rep. Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Terry Johnson for State Rep)
Rep. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 12 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Steve Huffman for State Rep)
Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy Township) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor D, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 Friends of Ron Young)
Rep. Tim Ginter (R-Salem) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Special Guest Former Speaker Bill Batchelder. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Tim Ginter for State Representative)

House Minority Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) fundraiser, Elevator Brewery and Draught Haus, 161 N. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor levels: Sponsor: \$2,500, Host: \$1,000, Guest: \$500, Friend: \$350 to Committee to Elect Fred Strahorn)

Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Lexi's on Third, 100 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Friends of John Eklund)

Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Fleming residence, 2374 Brixton Road, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Friday, October 13

OSBA Law & Media Conference, Ohio State Bar Association, 1700 Lake Shore Dr., Columbus, 9:30 a.m., (Registration at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Halle Malcomb, hmalcomb@ohiobar.org)

Tuesday, October 17

Republican Senate Campaign Committee pig roast fundraiser, Land Grant Brewery, 424 W. Town St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$10,000 Whole Hog Sponsor | \$5,000 Half Hog Sponsor | \$2,500 Loin Sponsor | \$1000 Bacon Sponsor | \$500 per Attendee to RSCC)

Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E Livingston Ave, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor levels: Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Committee to Elect Michael Sheehy)

Rep. Adam Miller (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Capital Club, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Supporter \$500, Attendee \$250 to Miller for Ohio)

Wednesday, October 18

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Gold Room, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 7:30 a.m., (\$2500 Event Chair | \$1000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Citizens for Lehner)

Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Einstein's, 41 S High Street, Columbus, 7:30 a.m., (Platinum Sponsor - \$1,000; Gold Sponsor - \$500 or Suggested Contribution - \$350 to Friends of Sandra Williams)

Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton) fundraiser, deNOVO, 150 S. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends for Steve Arndt)

Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Gold Sponsor \$2,500, Silver Sponsor \$1,000, Bronze Sponsor \$500, Supporter \$250 to Kathleen Clyde Committee)

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Dempsey's, 346 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Scioto Country Club, 2196 Riverside Dr., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Special Guest: Senate President Larry Obhof. Event

Sponsor \$1000, Event Host \$500, \$150 per couple, \$100 per individual to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Thursday, October 19

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) fundraiser, Maumee Bay Brew Pub, 27 Broadway Street, Toledo, 4:30 p.m., (Friend: \$250; Host: \$500; PAC: \$1,000 to Citizens with Fedor)

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (\$1,000 Event Sponsor; \$500 Lane Sponsor; \$100 per Person; \$50 Dinner only to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

Tuesday, October 24

Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Lounge, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$10,000; Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000 to Friends of Ryan Smith)

Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire) & Rep. Nick Celebrezze (D-Parma) fundraiser, Gresso's, 961 S. High St., Columbus, 7 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Nicholas J. Celebrezze and Jack Cera for State Representative)

Wednesday, October 25

Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chesterland) and Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to LaTourette for Ohio and/or Citizens for Gavarone)

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) fundraiser, The Lounge at Latitude 41, Renaissance Hotel, 50 North 3rd Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Friend: \$250; Host: \$500; PAC: \$1,000 to Citizens with Fedor)

Thursday, October 26

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Cimenero's Banquet Center, 123 N. Main St., Niles, 5 p.m., (Victory Sponsor \$1,400, Touchdown Sponsor \$700, Field Goal Sponsor \$300, Individual Tickets \$50 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Sunday, October 29

Democratic gubernatorial debate, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus

Ohio Democratic Party state dinner, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus, (Featured speaker: Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe)

Tuesday, October 31

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor on the Lake) & Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E Livingston Ave, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000,

Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Rogers and Committee to Elect John Patterson)

Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) & Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) fundraiser, Einstein's Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Emilia Sykes Campaign and Sykes for Office)

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Dave Greenspan)

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) and Rep. Bill Blessing (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,000; Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Individual: \$350 to Seitz for Ohio and/or Citizens for Blessing)

Rep. Bernadine Kent (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Lincoln Cafe, 740 E. Long St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Kent for Ohio)

Thursday, November 2

Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Medina) fundraiser, High & Low Winery, 588 Medina Road, Wadsworth, 6 p.m., (Special Guest President Larry Obhof. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Hambley for House Committee)

Wednesday, November 8

Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) and Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 Citizens for Duffey and/or Lanese for Ohio)
Sen. Cliff Hite (R-Findlay) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$2,500 Chair | \$1,000 Host | \$500 Sponsor | \$350 Attendee to The Committee to Elect Cliff Hite)

Tuesday, November 28

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) fundraiser, Pub Mahone, 31 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

Wednesday, November 29

Rep. Michele LePore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Michele Lepore-Hagan for State Representative)

Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Scott Lipps)

Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Butler for Ohio)

Thursday, November 30

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Monclove Township) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Derek Merrin)

Tuesday, December 5

Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Gary Scherer)

Wednesday, December 6

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Citizens for Schuring Committee)

Wednesday, February 28

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Luncheon, Renaissance Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., Columbus, 12 p.m.

Monday, June 4

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740 Worthington Rd., Westerville

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740 Worthington Rd., Westerville

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From: Caitlin Johnson, Policy Matters Ohio
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2017 12:09 PM
To: Alexander, Steven
Subject: RELEASE: Expand Trade Adjustment Assistance to help displaced Ohio workers

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PRESS RELEASE

= A

Expand Trade Adjustment Assistance to help displaced Ohio workers

Contact: [Hannah Halbert](#)
614.221.4505

Between 2001 and 2015, 124,000 Ohio workers received federal assistance after losing their jobs due to trade agreements with other nations. During that time, the Economic Policy Institute estimates that Ohio lost nearly as many — 121,500 — jobs to the trade deficit with China alone.

In a new report, Policy Matters Ohio examines the role of Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) in helping workers displaced because of free-trade pacts like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Petitions for TAA assistance are often filed by unions or the relocating or closing companies themselves. Eligible workers receive a cash allowance if they enroll in a full-time training course. TAA also helps workers cover some of the costs of job searching or relocation. Workers 50 or over who take a new job that pays less than \$50,000 may receive a wage supplement of no more than \$10,000. TAA also helps trade-affected workers with a tax credit of up to 72.5 percent of health insurance premium costs.

In response to the Great Recession, President Obama expanded TAA to cover more workers under the federal Stimulus Package. In 2009, the annual number of Ohio's TAA-certified workers peaked at 22,214. Last year, 3,790 Ohio workers received TAA certification. As of November 2017, 3,615 Ohioans have been covered.

"TAA only covers a fraction of Ohio workers harmed by trade policy," said Policy Matters Researcher Hannah Halbert. "The 2009 jump in certified workers proves the expanded program was needed and well-used in Ohio, which still hasn't fully recovered from the recession."

Last year, TAA certifications clustered in counties with more blue-collar jobs. Six petitions in Cuyahoga County covered more than 500 jobs, as did seven in southwest Ohio. Two in Knox and Coshocton counties covered more than 700 jobs.

Meanwhile, workers in other countries have also suffered from bad trade agreements. In 2014, Mexico's poverty rate was higher than when NAFTA began. During NAFTA renegotiations, Canada declared the labor laws in both Mexico and the U.S. to be so poor that they provide an unfair and unjust competitive advantage. Specifically, Canada called for an end to so-called right to work laws that chip away at collective bargaining power for workers.

"It's clear that NAFTA-style free trade agreements have hurt workers while benefitting multinational corporations," Halbert said. "One thing we can do to tip the scales back in the right direction is to expand TAA. The program must be more robust to really help Ohio's displaced workers." 0

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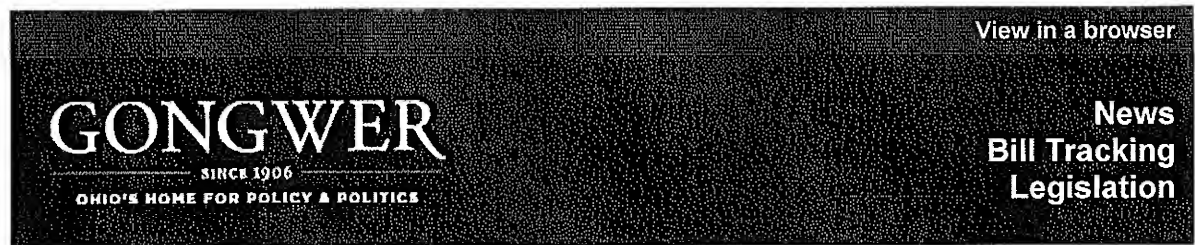


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From: gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service
[gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 9:00 AM
To: Standard_Subscriber_misc_html@gongwer-oh.com
Subject: House & Senate Floor Reports

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HOUSE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

HJR 7

UNION MEMBERSHIP (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)
Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of public sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember public sector employees in employment-related matters.

HJR 8**UNION MEMBERSHIP (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of private sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember private sector employees in employment-related matters.

HJR 9**PREVAILING WAGE (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 43 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor on a public improvement to pay the contractor's workers the prevailing rate of wages for work performed on the public improvement.

HJR 10**PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 2 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit certain requirements or prohibitions regarding labor agreements in government contracts.

HJR 11**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to subject any public employee collective bargaining representative to an annual election to remain certified as the exclusive representative.

HJR 12**UNION DUES (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit dues and other fees payable to an employee organization

from being deducted from the payroll check of a public employee and to prohibit those dues and fees from being used for political purposes unless authorized by the public employee.

HB 454

CEMETERY LOTS (Patterson, J., Arndt, S.)

To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner.

= A

SENATE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

SB 246

= A STUDENT REMOVAL (Lehner, P., Manning, G.)

To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre- kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation.

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

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From: Ohio House Republican Communications
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 8:14 AM
Subject: GOP Week in Review 12/31/17 - 1/7/18



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

12/31/17 - 1/7/18

WKSU: Ohio's Year in Review 2017: Changes to education policy

"Looking back, basically a time of transition and a time of starting to listen to what's going on in the field and starting to implement common-sense reforms as opposed to just mandates that people can't necessarily comply with," Brenner said.

Sandusky Register: Busy year for Shores & Islands

In April we were proud to provide support to the governor's office, city of Sandusky, Cedar Point, state Sen. Randy Gardner, state Rep. Steve Arndt, TourismOhio and others in hosting the governor's State of the State address at the Sandusky State Theatre.

The Advertiser-Tribune: SRPC, elections board ready to go

Reineke presented an Ohio flag and a U.S. flag that were flown over the state capitol building Dec. 19 as a gift to the elections panel. "I'm very happy to be here," he said. "We've all got to keep working together to make great things happen."

WOSU: Ohio lawmaker pushes for harsher penalties for parolees who fail drug tests

Republican state Rep. Niraj Antani, the bill's sponsor, wants to create more access to treatment facilities and says jails should not be used as detox centers. "But until that time, jail is simply the best place for someone to detox and to be safely placed if they are (using) heroin and fentanyl - until we can figure out something else for them," Antani said.

Mansfield News Journal: Community honors law enforcement with 'Spread the Light'

The evening ended with state Rep. Mark Romanchuk, R-Ontario, counting down to officers switching on the lights and sirens in more than a dozen police vehicles to officially "spread the light" and start the week.

Associated Press: Proposed Ohio law would prevent forced nurse overtime

State Rep. Robert Sprague, a Findlay Republican, said he's concerned that exhausted nurses working long hours can lead to preventable medical errors. "It's a recipe for problems," Sprague told The Dayton Daily News.

Findlay Courier: Sprague bill would ban forced nurse OT

A bill introduced in the Ohio House by state Rep. Robert Sprague, R-Findlay, would prohibit hospitals from requiring a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse to work overtime as a condition of employment.

Wilmington News Journal: Guest column from Speaker Cliff Rosenberger: Buckeye Pathway guides policy

This member-driven document outlines our priorities and serves as a roadmap to three objectives: improve Ohio's economic environment, enhance opportunities for all Ohioans, and strengthen families and communities. Halfway through this term, we have approved more than 30 bills that align with these principles.

Toledo Blade: Republican lawmakers push to make Ohio "right to work"

The resolutions are sponsored by state Rep. John Becker (R., Cincinnati) and state Rep. Craig Riedel (R., Defiance). ... "It's not so much that I'm opposed to unions," Mr. Riedel said. "I believe strongly that employees ought not to be required to pay fair-share fees if they choose not to join that union. If that individual chooses not to be a part of that union, they're on their own. They would not get any representation whatsoever by that collective-bargaining agreement."

Your News Now: HB 336 plans to help Ohioans with suspended licenses

"This would help reduce the number of suspensions the bureau has to keep track of, it would also provide an incentive for a person to get insurance, get their license reinstated, and be able, if you're not able now to find a job because of lack of transportation, to be able to do that," said Rep. Bob Cupp, 4th District Rep for the State of Ohio.

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 2:01 PM
To: House_All
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a

claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

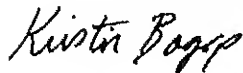
An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09



Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 7:15 AM
To: House_All
Subject: FW: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

****REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS MARCH 9, 2018 at 4PM**

Dominic Paretti

Legislative Aide to Representative Boyd
Ohio House District 09
614-644-5079

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 5:01 PM
To: House_All <House_All@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave



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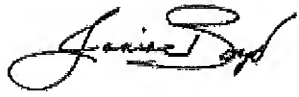
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janine Boyd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Janine" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Boyd".

Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin Boggs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kristin" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Boggs".

Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Kaiser Health News
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 6:39 AM
To: Alexander, Steven
Subject: KHN Morning Briefing: February 27, 2018

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Morning Briefing: Summaries Of The News

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Visit Kaiser Health News for the latest headlines

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- 2. Following The Fire: Montana Scientists Seize Chance To Scrutinize Smoke Exposure**
- 3. Political Cartoon: 'Just Clowning Around?'**

HEALTH LAW

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- 4. 20 States Sue Government Claiming Repeal Of Individual Mandate's Tax Penalty Renders Law Unconstitutional**

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- 5. After Shooting, Administration Reconsiders Ban On Medicaid Funding For Certain Mental Health Facilities**

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7. White House Chief Of Staff Tries To Soothe Veterans Groups' Concerns Over Scandal, Infighting At VA

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8. Buffett Sees Lower Costs, Better Care With New Initiative, But Warns 'Don't Expect Any Miracles Out Of Us'

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10. Disaster-Response Preparedness Bill Could Hold Lots Of Goodies For Pharma

PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION

11. After 'Especially Difficult' Flu Season, FDA Panel To Weigh Changes To Next Year's Vaccine

12. Bulk Of People Who Use Heroin Are Functioning Addicts. Here's A Look At Their Lives

13. Nearly Everyone Has Frequent Heart Palpitations, But We Still Don't Know Much About Them

STATE WATCH

14. State Highlights: Son's \$1M Cancer Bill Cost Mass. Teacher Her Job, Complaint Claims; Texas Law To Protect Patients From Surprise Bills Leads To More Confusion

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

15. Viewpoints: Trumpcare Is Progress? Fewer Insured, Higher Rates, Debt; Amazon's Goals Full Of Conflicts

From Kaiser Health News:

KAISER HEALTH NEWS ORIGINAL STORIES

1. Refusing To Work For Medicaid May Not Translate To Subsidies For ACA Plan

In states that are instituting work requirements for Medicaid coverage, refusing to get a job will not likely make you eligible for subsidies to buy a marketplace plan. (Michelle Andrews, 2/27)

2. Following The Fire: Montana Scientists Seize Chance To Scrutinize Smoke Exposure

The health effects of extended smoke exposure are largely unknown because it's difficult to conduct studies. But last summer's wildfire season has handed scientists a unique opportunity for research. (Nora Saks, Montana Public Radio, 2/27)

3. Political Cartoon: 'Just Clowning Around?'

Kaiser Health News provides a fresh take on health policy developments with "Political Cartoon: 'Just Clowning Around?'" by Dan Piraro.

Here's today's health policy haiku:

COGNITIVE TEST-MAKERS SEIZE ON THEIR TRUMP MOMENT

MoCA makers say
"Trump scored 100? No way!"
Time to change the test.

- Kim Nichols Dauner

If you have a health policy haiku to share, please [Contact Us](#) and let us know if you want us to include your name. Keep in mind that we give extra points if you link back to a KHN original story.

Summaries Of The News:

HEALTH LAW

4. 20 States Sue Government Claiming Repeal Of Individual Mandate's Tax Penalty Renders Law Unconstitutional

The states also say in the suit that because the health law doesn't have a "severability clause" — a provision that says if one part of the law is struck by the courts, the rest would stand — if one part of it is struck down, the rest is invalid.

Reuters: Twenty States Sue Federal Government, Seeking End To Obamacare
A coalition of 20 U.S. states sued the federal government on Monday over Obamacare, claiming the law was no longer constitutional after the repeal last year of its requirement that people have health insurance or pay a fine. Led by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel, the lawsuit said that without the individual mandate, which was eliminated as part of the Republican tax law signed by President Donald Trump in December, Obamacare was unlawful. (Beech, 2/27)

Modern Healthcare: 20 States Sue Federal Government To Abolish Obamacare
"Once the heart of the ACA — the individual mandate § 4 is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of the ACA must also fall," the states wrote in the complaint, filed in federal court in Fort Worth, Texas. (Teichert, 2/26)

Politico: 20 States Sue Over Obamacare Mandate — Again
The GOP tax law "eliminated the tax penalty of the ACA, without eliminating the mandate itself," the states argue in a complaint filed today in U.S. District Court in the Northern District of Texas. "What remains, then, is the individual mandate, without any accompanying exercise of Congress's taxing power, which the Supreme Court already held that Congress has no authority to enact." The Supreme Court in 2012 upheld Obamacare's individual mandate in one of the highest-profile court cases in years. The justices did not agree then with the Obama administration's main argument that the mandate penalty was valid under the Commerce Clause. But the justices did say that the mandate was a constitutional tax. (Haberborn, 2/26)

Houston Chronicle: Texas Leads New Lawsuit To Effectively Repeal Obamacare
Texas teamed up with Wisconsin on Monday to resume the fight against Obamacare by leading the charge in a 20-state lawsuit the group of largely Republican attorneys general hope will kill off the Affordable Care Act. Attorney General Ken Paxton stressed the President Trump's tax overhaul, approved in Congress late last year, renders the

the health care plan's individual mandate unconstitutional because the federal government no longer imposes a tax penalty. (Zelinski, 2/26)

Arizona Republic: Arizona Among 20 States Seeking Repeal Of Affordable Care Act Mandate

The case was filed by Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on behalf of their states and attorneys general in 18 other states, including Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich. About 167,000 Arizonans enrolled for coverage in 2018 during last fall's enrollment period, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services website. (Coppola, 2/26)

In other health law news —

Modern Healthcare: Republicans Try Coverage Expansion: Idaho Showcases Red State Dilemma

As the 2018 election season kicks into high gear across the country, lawmakers in some red states find themselves at odds over how to grapple with continually rising premiums, large swaths of low-income uninsured and overall insurance market instability. Nowhere is that more evident than in Idaho. The state nabbed headlines by asking carriers to use "creativity" in designing plans for the exchanges—including going outside the essential health benefit bounds set by the Affordable Care Act. (Luthi, 2/26)

The Hill: Iowa Lawmakers Move To Allow Health Plans That Skirt ObamaCare Rules
State lawmakers in Iowa are moving to allow the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation to offer health insurance plans that don't comply with ObamaCare protections. Two bills moving through the state legislature aim to provide Farm Bureau members with plans that cost much less than plans that are currently available on Iowa's individual market. (Weixel, 2/26)

ADMINISTRATION NEWS

5. After Shooting, Administration Reconsiders Ban On Medicaid Funding For Certain Mental Health Facilities

A law currently bars Medicaid from paying for treatment in mental health facilities with more than 16 beds. The administration has already opened the way for states to seek waivers from the policy in cases involving treatment for substance abuse, so mental health treatments could be next. Meanwhile, outlets look at what Congress can realistically do on gun control, what states are taking action, and the limits on gun research.

The Associated Press: Administration Considers Expanding Mental Health Treatment
Amid the outcry over the Florida school shootings, the Trump administration says it is "actively exploring" ways to help states expand inpatient mental health treatment using Medicaid funds. President Donald Trump again brought up the issue of mental hospitals in a meeting with governors on Monday, invoking a time when states maintained facilities for mentally ill and developmentally disabled people. "In the old days, you would put him into a mental institution," Trump said, apparently referring to alleged shooter Nikolas Cruz, whose troubling behavior prompted people close to him to plead for help from authorities, without success. (Alonso-Zaldivar, 2/27)

Los Angeles Times: What The Florida School Shooting Reveals About The Gaps In Our Mental Health System

After Adam Lanza burst into Sandy Hook Elementary School and gunned down 20 students and six educators, Connecticut's Office of the Child Advocate tapped Julian Ford to help make sense of the shooting. A professor of psychiatry at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and a practicing psychologist for 35 years, Ford served on an expert panel that conducted a detailed review of Lanza's brief life to look for "any warning signs, red flags, or other lessons that could be learned." The resulting report painted a picture of an odd, sensitive child with significant communication difficulties who became an anxious and withdrawn adolescent. ... At every turn, the report saw missed opportunities to treat Lanza's multiple interpersonal and mental health difficulties ... and to draw him out of his profound isolation. (Healy, 2/26)

The Washington Post: What Will Congress Realistically Do On Guns After The Florida Shooting?

Congress is back this week for the first time since the Parkland, Fla., high school massacre. Sustained national media attention on the shooting, emotional confrontations between politicians and survivors and their families, as well as a public-opinion shift in favor of stricter gun laws could spur Congress to do something to tighten access to guns. But don't expect Congress to do something big. The party that tends to support looser gun laws controls both chambers, and President Trump has appeared to double down on a pro-gun position to arm some teachers. (Phillips, 2/26)

The Wall Street Journal: Background-Checks Bill Runs Into Hurdles In Congress
Legislation designed to improve background checks for gun purchases ran into new hurdles Monday, raising doubts about lawmakers' ability to act in the wake of the Florida school shooting. The background-checks bill, sponsored by Sen. John Cornyn (R., Texas), would encourage states and federal agencies, including the military, to submit criminal-conviction records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS. That step has broad bipartisan support. (Peterson and Bender, 2/26)

Politico: Trump Says He Is 'Writing Out' Bump Stocks

President Donald Trump said Monday he is "writing out" so-called bump stocks, which allow semi-automatic weapons to mimic the firing speed of fully automatic weapons.

"Bump stocks, we are writing that out. I am writing that out," he said, addressing a group of state governors at the White House. "I don't care if Congress does it or not, I'm writing it out myself." (Alexander, 2/26)

NPR: Trump Echoes NRA More, After Bipartisan Tone Started The Gun Discussion

Lawmakers in Washington and Tallahassee have discussed a lot of ideas to reduce school shootings, but on the hardest questions — like what to do about guns — there is just no clear consensus. There are few signs of clarity from President Trump, who has taken a leading role in the debate without providing strong direction to solve the problem. (Liasson, 2/27)

Politico: Trump Won't Meet With AGs On Guns

President Donald Trump said he wanted to meet with state attorneys general to hear their ideas about gun laws — he brought in two anti-gun-regulation Republicans, and the White House says that's enough. Trump won't be meeting with a bipartisan group of AGs in Washington this week for the National Association of Attorneys General conference, as he did last year. (Dovere, 2/26)

The New York Times: What Are States Doing About Gun Violence After The Florida Shooting?

It is not just in Florida, where the mass shooting at a high school is prompting lawmakers to take up gun control legislation. The same thing is happening across the country, from Washington to Vermont. What was one of the deadliest school shootings in modern American history prompted Gov. Gina Raimondo of Rhode Island to sign an executive order on Monday to establish a policy to take guns away from people who pose a danger to themselves or others. (Seelye and Bidgood, 2/26)

CNN: Florida School Shooting: Florida Lawmakers Consider Gun Measures

Florida lawmakers are mulling a series of proposals in response to the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School that triggered an outcry for accountability and reform. With the last day of the state's legislative session set for March 9, the clock is ticking for lawmakers amid pressure from young survivors of the shooting, who converged in Tallahassee Monday. Hundreds of Floridians, including Stoneman Douglas students, converged on the state Capitol Monday in an event called Rally in Tally calling for stronger gun laws. (Park and Grinberg, 2/27)

Stateline: Limits On Federal Gun Research Spur States To Step In

As deaths from mass shootings have mounted across the United States, some states are moving to collect hard data to guide their decisions about guns — even as the federal government has retreated from such research in the face of pressure from pro-gun groups. The New Jersey Legislature, for example, is weighing a measure that would create a gun-violence research center at Rutgers University. The center would be modeled on the new Firearm Violence Prevention Research Center at the University of California at Davis, which launched last summer with \$5 million in state money over five years. (Ollove, 2/27)

Modern Healthcare: Tide May Be Turning To Free Up Funding To Study Gun Violence
Dr. Marian Betz, a University of Colorado emergency medicine researcher, is studying how to counsel suicidal adults and their families on the best way to store their guns and reduce easy access. The two-year, \$800,000 study, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, will evaluate whether such decision-support aids reduce suicide gun deaths. Such federal grants to study gun violence and how to reduce it have been rare since 1996 when a law was enacted barring the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from collecting data to advocate for gun control. Betz was able to get her grant only because in 2013, following the Sandy Hook Elementary School mass shooting in Connecticut, President Barack Obama restarted limited federal funding for such research. (Meyer, 2/26)

The Washington Post: How Laz Ojeda And First Responders May Have Saved The Life Of Parkland Student Madeleine Wilford

As Madeleine Wilford bled from multiple gunshot wounds outside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the first responder struggling to keep her alive was faced with a choice. Coral Springs Fire Department Lt. Laz Ojeda could follow guidance to rush the high school student to a hospital 30 miles away, where policy dictates most child patients should go. The second option: Head for the closer, urgent-care-focused Broward Health North, about 12 miles from where a gunman had just killed 17 people on Valentine's Day. (Horton, 2/26)

Health News Florida: Experts: Parents Can Reassure Children After Mass Shootings

At a discussion on mental health following the recent shooting in South Florida, Kristen Hoffman, a psychologist at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, said kids older than six will have tough questions. ... She says parents should let children lead the conversation with their questions. They can start by asking kids what they know about the incident and what questions they have. (Ochoa, 2/27)

SUPREME COURT

6. Supreme Court Hears Arguments For 'Fair Share' Case That Could Potentially Cripple Unions

The justices will hear a case on a rule that requires non-union employees at union-affiliated workplaces to pay "fair share" fees. Public sector employees who are not union members are required to pay these fees because the union's collective bargaining is meant to benefit all employees equally. Nearly 1.5 million workers in health care occupations are represented by unions.

NPR: Supreme Court Hears Fiery Arguments In Case That Could Gut Public Sector Unions

The Supreme Court heard fiery arguments Monday in a case that could remove a key revenue stream for public sector unions. A sharply divided court could be poised to overturn a 40-year-old Supreme Court decision that would further undermine an already shrinking union movement. Attorneys for Mark Janus, a child support specialist for the state of Illinois, argue that people like Janus, who choose not to join a union, shouldn't be compelled to pay partial union fees. (Totenberg, 2/26)

Modern Healthcare: Healthcare Leaders Worry Supreme Court Case On Union Fees Could Hurt Workplace Harmony And Quality Of Care

Joyce Robertson has been a public health nurse with the Cook County Health & Hospitals System in Chicago for 24 years. She says her labor union, National Nurses United, has repeatedly backed her up when her supervisors have retaliated against her for activism in protecting quality of care. Now she's worried about the outcome of a case being heard by the U.S. Supreme Court Monday that could have enormous ramifications for healthcare organizations. Janus v. AFSCME challenges the right of public-sector unions to collect mandatory fees, known as agency fees, from employees in the bargaining unit to represent them in contract negotiations. Twenty-two states allow such mandatory collections. Fees to cover a union's political activities already are optional under a previous Supreme Court ruling. (Meyer, 2/23)

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

7. White House Chief Of Staff Tries To Soothe Veterans Groups' Concerns Over Scandal, Infighting At VA

Leading advocacy groups, including the American Legion, the VFW and the Disabled Veterans of America, are worried about conservatives' interest in shifting toward

privatized care for veterans. They see Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin as an ally.

The Washington Post: White House Meets With Veterans Groups Amid Dispute At VA, Tension Over Access To Health Care

White House Chief of Staff John F. Kelly told top veterans advocates Monday that President Trump supports Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, whose future in the administration was called into question this month amid a power struggle among political appointees, according to people who participated in the discussion. The meeting was arranged by Kelly following revelations that Shulkin, the only Obama-era holdover in Trump's Cabinet, had become a target of conservatives hoping to install a new secretary who would be more supportive of their plan to expand health-care options beyond the VA system — a controversial program known as Choice. (Wax-Thibodeaux, 2/26)

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MARKETPLACE

8. Buffett Sees Lower Costs, Better Care With New Initiative, But Warns 'Don't Expect Any Miracles Out Of Us'

"This is not easy," Warren Buffett said about the new health initiative between his company, Amazon and JPMorgan. "If it was easy, it would have been done."

Bloomberg: Buffett-Dimon Health Venture To Go Beyond Just Squeezing The Middlemen

Health-care spending is taking up an increasing proportion of the U.S. economy, and a goal of the venture is to "at least" halt that, [Warren] Buffett said, adding that he hopes "we could find a way where perhaps better care could be delivered even at somewhat lesser cost." The venture is initially being guided by three senior executives from the companies: Berkshire's Todd Combs; Marvelle Sullivan Berchtold, a managing director at JPMorgan who previously worked at drugmaker Novartis AG; and Beth Galetti, a senior vice president for human resources at Amazon. (Tracer and Chiglinsky, 2/26)

In other news from the health industry —

CNBC: Apple Is Launching Medical Clinics To Deliver The 'World's Best Health Care Experience' To Its Employees

Apple is launching a group of health clinics called AC Wellness for its own employees and their families this spring, according to several sources familiar with the company's

plans. The company quietly published a website, acwellness.com, with more details about its initiative This new primary care group will initially only serve Apple's employees in Santa Clara County, where its headquarters are located. At present, it includes only two clinics. (Farr, 2/27)

Reuters: Fitbit Sees Lower Revenue From New Devices In First Quarter, Shares Fall
Wearable device maker Fitbit Inc on Monday forecast current-quarter profit and revenue below Wall Street estimates and predicted lower revenue from newly launched products such as Ionic and Alta HR. Fitbit shares fell 11.2 percent to \$4.92 in after-market trading after the company's fourth-quarter results also missed estimates due to an about 17 percent drop in sale of its fitness trackers in the holiday quarter. (Khan, 2/26)

MEDICAID

9. Imposing Work Mandate Will Cost Kentucky Nearly \$187M In First 6 Months. But Governor Vows Savings To Come.

The vast majority of those dollars — more than \$167 million — would be covered by the federal government, Republican Gov. Matt Bevin said. Medicaid news comes out of Virginia, New Mexico, and Florida as well.

Roll Call: Medicaid Changes Require Tens Of Millions In Upfront Costs
The addition of work requirements and other sweeping changes to Kentucky's Medicaid program could cost nearly \$187 million in the first six months alone to get up and running. Republican Gov. Matt Bevin projects that the program will eventually yield savings but the changes require an upfront investment in administrative expenses. Much of that money is aimed at creating complex electronic systems and other changes needed to track work hours, monthly premium payments and other elements of Kentucky's recently approved plan to revamp the government insurance program for low-income Americans. (Williams, 2/26)

Medpage: Ky. Governor Talks New Medicaid Limits, Opioid Crisis
When it comes to healthcare issues, Gov. Matt Bevin (R) of Kentucky has a lot on his plate. His state was in the spotlight after it became the first to implement a Medicaid waiver that includes work requirements. Also called "community engagement activities," the new policy means that beneficiaries, with the exception of vulnerable populations, must work, volunteer, engage in job training, go to school, or take care of a family member, in order to receive benefits. (Firth, 2/26)

Kaiser Health News: Refusing To Work For Medicaid May Not Translate To Subsidies For ACA Plan

In general, people who are eligible for Medicaid — the federal-state health program for low-income people — or employer coverage can't qualify for federal tax credits that help pay for premiums on plans sold on the health insurance exchanges. This year, Kentucky and Indiana became the first states to receive federal approval to require some Medicaid recipients to put in 80 hours each month at a paid job, school or volunteer work, among other activities, to receive benefits. Nearly a dozen other states have made similar requests. (Andrews, 2/27)

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Modern Healthcare: Virginia Governor Voices Optimism For State Medicaid Expansion
Virginia's new Democratic governor, Ralph Northam, hopes his state's Legislature will reach a compromise on Medicaid expansion as their legislative session wraps up over the next few weeks. At the annual winter meeting of the National Governors Association over the weekend, Northam told Modern Healthcare he is optimistic the ongoing negotiations may very well result in a compromise even though the state Senate continues to oppose expansion. (Luthi, 2/26)

Roanoke Times: Funding To Relieve Pressure On Mental Hospitals Caught Up In Medicaid Budget Battle

Early last week, Virginia's public mental hospitals admitted 60 patients in 72 hours, crowding them to 97 percent of capacity with no beds available in two of the state's nine psychiatric facilities of last resort. The situation prompted a public plea in the Virginia Senate by Sen. Creigh Deeds, D-Bath, whose family tragedy underscored the importance of state psychiatric beds when none is available elsewhere. (Martz, 2/26)

The Santa Fe New Mexican: Judge Dismisses Molina Lawsuit Challenging Medicaid Contracts

A judge Monday dismissed a lawsuit seeking to block the administration of Gov. Susana Martinez from proceeding at least temporarily with new contracts for health care companies to serve Medicaid recipients. State District Judge Gregory Shaffer dismissed the case brought by Molina Healthcare of New Mexico, which is challenging its loss of a contract to provide Medicaid managed care after Dec. 31. However, the legal wrestling match over billions of dollars in new Medicaid managed care contracts is far from over. (Cole, 2/26)

Health News Florida: Health Program Money Won't Hit Projections

Gov. Rick Scott last year bragged that the Trump administration had agreed to steer \$1.5 billion in supplemental Medicaid funding to the state, saying at the time the money

will “truly improve the quality and access to health care for our most vulnerable populations.” But the amount of Medicaid money that will flow to the “Low Income Pool” program this year is \$730.6 million, less than half of the potential amount and about \$60 million less than what Medicaid Director Beth Kidder told lawmakers last fall would be available for the state to spend. (2/25)

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PHARMACEUTICALS

10. Disaster-Response Preparedness Bill Could Hold Lots Of Goodies For Pharma

The Pandemic All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act is up for renewal this year, and drugmakers are already lining up with their hands out. In other pharmaceutical news: a judge rules that Martin Shkreli can be held responsible for \$10.4 million in losses related to his tenure at Turing Pharmaceuticals; an analysis finds oversight of compounding pharmacies improved; and a tweet sends one biotech company's stocks soaring.

Stat: Drug Makers Lobby For Antibiotic Incentives In Pandemic Preparedness Bill
A big legislative package due for renewal later this year could include hundreds of millions of dollars of drug incentives — and the medical community is already jostling to shape its contents. The Pandemic All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act, a 2013 update of a 2006 law, is slated to end in September. It helps fund disaster-response initiatives such as vaccines for smallpox, diagnostic tests for influenza, and hospital programs to treat victims of a nuclear attack. (Swetlitz, 2/27)

The Hill: Judge Holds Martin Shkreli Responsible For \$10.4 Million In Losses
A federal judge ruled Monday that former drug company CEO Martin Shkreli will be held responsible for \$10.4 million worth of financial losses related to his time as head of Turing Pharmaceuticals. Judge Kiyo Matsumoto rejected Shkreli's argument that he did not cause any losses for investors because they eventually came out with a profit, Reuters reported. The total losses will likely play a factor in Shkreli's sentencing on March 9. (Samuels, 2/26)

Stat: State Oversight Of Compounding Pharmacies Is Better, But Inspections Are Lagging

Amid ongoing scrutiny of compounding pharmacies, a new analysis finds that state oversight has largely improved recently, although one glaring weakness is a cause for concern: Inspections are not being conducted as frequently as in the past. Specifically,

32 states now require compounding pharmacies that make sterile medicines, which are injected or infused into the body, to fully comply with recognized quality standards, according to The Pew Charitable Trusts, a public policy organization. Two years ago, Pew conducted a similar analysis and found only 26 states had the same requirement. (Silverman, 2/26)

Stat: A Biotech Doubled Its Value Off A Tweet About A Curious 'Breakthrough'
"A serious breakthrough in the lab," began the tweet worth more than \$8 million to a micro-cap London biotech company. The tweet, posted Sunday and totaling 50 characters, sent HemoGenyx Pharmaceuticals' share price up nearly three-fold on Monday morning, making it the day's best performing company on the London Stock Exchange. (Garde, 2/26)

Public Health And Education

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11. After 'Especially Difficult' Flu Season, FDA Panel To Weigh Changes To Next Year's Vaccine

The FDA is looking at why this year's vaccine had a low effectiveness rate. Meanwhile, public officials are trying to make it clear that the vaccine itself can't cause the flu epidemic.

The Hill: FDA Advisory Committee To Analyze Changing Flu Vaccine For Next Year
A Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory committee will consider whether to change the flu vaccine for next year as the country faces a worse-than-expected flu season. The FDA convenes a panel annually to analyze what will make up next flu season's vaccine. The panel examines the World Health Organization's recommendations to help decide the composition of the next year's shots. (Roubein, 2/26)

The Associated Press: Flu Shot Doesn't Cause Influenza Epidemic
You can't get the flu from a flu shot. And public health officials aren't blaming the vaccine for causing this season's nasty epidemic. Some "natural" health websites have misrepresented remarks of a Wisconsin county public health nurse, Anna Treague, who was trying to explain to a local newspaper why this year's influenza vaccine was not as effective as other years. (2/26)

And from the states —

Kansas City Star: Flu Peaks Nationally, But Not In Kansas, CDC Says
Don't be lulled by reports that this year's awful flu season is finally on the wane. Here in Kansas City, that's only half true. After weeks of influenza unlike anything the country had seen in almost a decade, the Centers for Disease Control said last week that flu cases may have finally peaked nationally. But while Missouri appears to be joining the rest of the country on the downslope, cases in Kansas are still stubbornly sticking at their highest levels. (Marso, 2/26)

Georgia Health News: It's Not Over, But Rough Flu Season Finally Receding
Hospitalizations for flu in the eight-county metro Atlanta area were far lower in the week of Feb. 11 through 17 than in the previous week, down to 91 from 165. And the proportion of outpatient visits for flu-like illness in Georgia was 11.9 percent, down from 15.2 percent. (Miller, 2/26)

California Healthline: At Some California Hospitals, Fewer Than Half Of Workers Get The Flu Shot

How well are doctors, nurses and other workers at your local hospital vaccinated against the flu? That depends on the hospital. According to data from the California Department of Public Health, flu vaccination rates among health care staffers at the state's acute care hospitals range from a low of 37 percent to 100 percent. (Wiener, 2/27)

12. Bulk Of People Who Use Heroin Are Functioning Addicts. Here's A Look At Their Lives

CNN talks to people addicted to heroin who are still holding down jobs, paying bills and fooling their families. In other news on the national drug crisis: Ohio sues four major opioid distributors; the judge overseeing hundreds of lawsuits against drug companies wants the DEA to release painkiller data; a look at how much the epidemic has cost New York City; and more.

CNN: Inside The Secret Lives Of Functioning Heroin Addicts

They're not slumped over in alleyways with used needles by their sides. Their dignity, at least from outside appearances, remains intact. They haven't lost everything while chasing an insatiable high. They are functioning heroin addicts -- people who hold down jobs, pay the bills and fool their families. For some, addiction is genetic; they're wired this way. For others, chronic pain and lack of legal opioids landed them here. Or experimentation got them hooked and changed everything. (Ravitz, 2/27)

Reuters: Ohio Accuses Drug Distributors Of Helping Fuel Opioid Epidemic
Ohio on Monday accused four major pharmaceutical distributors of ignoring their responsibilities to ensure that opioids were not being diverted for improper uses, contributing to a drug abuse epidemic in the state. The lawsuit by Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine was filed in a state court against McKesson Corp, Cardinal Health Inc, AmerisourceBergen Corp and Miami-Luken Inc and marked the second he has pursued over corporations' roles in the opioid crisis. (Raymond, 2/26)

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Ohio Sues Opioid Distributors, Says Negligence Flooded State With Powerful Painkillers

The lawsuit filed in Madison County Common Pleas Court claims drug distributors ignored a responsibility to provide effective controls against opioid diversion. The distributors knew the number of painkillers being brought into Ohio far exceeded the number needed for legitimate medical purposes -- an indication some of the drugs were being used improperly, the lawsuit says. (Madden, 2/26)

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Judge Overseeing Opioid Lawsuits Pushes DEA To Release Drug Data For Settlement Talks

The federal judge overseeing hundreds of lawsuits local governments filed against opioid manufacturers and distributors is pushing the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to release government-collected painkiller data to both sides engaging in settlement talks. U.S. District Judge Dan Polster, during a hearing Monday, ordered the DEA to inform him by March 5 if it will consent to releasing some data from the Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System, or ARCOS. He also wants to know how long it would take to release the data. (Heisig, 2/26)

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Opioid Addiction Treatment Targeted In Ohio Capital Budget Bill

Facilities offering addiction treatment programs are among nearly \$20 million in Cuyahoga County projects included in the \$2.62 billion state capital budget bill introduced Monday. The capital budget funds improvements to roads, schools and public buildings, but community projects tend to hog the spotlight despite comprising a small portion of the budget. (Borchardt, 2/26)

The Wall Street Journal: NYC: Opioid Crisis Has Cost City \$500 Million

Mayor Bill de Blasio offered few specifics when he said New York City litigation would seek about \$500 million from opioid manufacturers and distributors to recover costs associated with abuse of the drugs. The breakdown of that half billion offers a window into how the opioid epidemic has taxed the city, with most of it borne by its financially strapped public-health system. (Ramey, 2/26)

Reuters: Doctor Tied To Insys Opioid Kickback Probe Gets Prison Term
A Michigan doctor linked to a federal investigation into allegations that Insys Therapeutics Inc paid kickbacks to medical practitioners to prescribe its flagship opioid product was sentenced on Monday to 32 months in prison. Gavin Awerbuch, 59, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Arthur Tarnow in Detroit after admitting that he wrote prescriptions for Insys' fentanyl-based cancer pain medication Subsys for non-legitimate uses and committed health care fraud. (Friess, 2/26)

Des Moines Register: Opioid Crisis In Iowa: Legislation In House Tackles Problem
The Iowa House passed bipartisan legislation Monday night aimed at battling a crisis in opioid addiction that lawmakers said will help save lives and reduce personal devastation and family tragedies that are striking many communities. House File 2377 would place limits on opioid prescriptions, implement Good Samaritan laws for those who report overdoses and require physicians to file every prescription electronically to avoid circumstances when paper prescriptions are subject to forgeries (Petroski, 2/26)

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Richmond Times Dispatch: NGA Picks Virginia To Take Part In Kentucky Learning Lab On Opioid Epidemic

The National Governors Association selected Virginia to participate in a learning lab in Kentucky to better understand how that state is addressing rising rates of infectious diseases such as hepatitis C and HIV caused by the opioid epidemic. ... There were more than 10,000 cases of chronic hepatitis C in Virginia in 2017, which is often a precursor of rising rates of HIV. (Staff, 2/26)

Arizona Republic: State House Bill Proposes Minimum 5-Year Sentence For First-Time Opioid Sellers

In a move reminiscent of "tough-on-crime" drug policy from decades ago, a bill in the Arizona House of Representatives calls for mandatory 5-year-minimum prison sentences for first-time heroin and fentanyl sellers. (Pohl, 2/26)

13. Nearly Everyone Has Frequent Heart Palpitations, But We Still Don't Know Much About Them

Those not-quite-right beats that people feel could be absolutely nothing or a sign of a serious problem. In other public health news: autism and ultrasounds, statins, end-of-life discussions, alcohol, standing desks and more.

The Washington Post: The Heart Skips A Beat With Palpitations But It May Not Be Serious

You might feel them as skipped heartbeats or unusually forceful beats. One friend describes her heart palpitations as a soft fluttering that starts in her chest, moves to her neck and sometimes makes her cough. Another says her heart feels as if it's flipping over in her chest. Mine come in a "2pause-thump" pattern that occasionally make me lightheaded. "Heart palpitations" is a catchall term used to describe anything unusual that people feel in the rhythms of their hearts. And pretty much everyone has them at some point, said Gregory Marcus, a cardiac electrophysiologist at the University of California at San Francisco. (Sohn, 2/26)

The Washington Post: Autism Connection To Ultrasound Seems Unlikely, Study Says
Ultrasounds during pregnancy can be lots of fun, offering peeks at the baby-to-be. But ultrasounds aren't just a way to get Facebook fodder. They are medical procedures that involve sound waves, technology that could, in theory, affect a growing fetus. With that concern in mind, some researchers have wondered if the rising rates of autism diagnoses could have anything to do with the increasing number of ultrasound scans that women receive during pregnancy. (Sanders, 2/26)

The Washington Post: Statins Can Lower Cholesterol But Not Everyone May Need Them

High cholesterol, a risk factor for heart disease, affects nearly 1 in 5 American women who are at least 40 years old. Although heart disease is the No. 1 cause of death in women, there is little agreement on what to do about managing cholesterol. A recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report found that 17.7 percent of women ages 40 to 59 had high cholesterol, as did 17.2 percent of those 60 and older. That's a higher percentage than men in the middle-age cohort (16.5 percent) and dramatically higher than men in the older cohort (6.9 percent). (Adams, 2/26)

The Washington Post: Failing To Tell Patients That Nothing Will Help May Only Make Them Suffer More

Why is it so hard to tell chronically ill patients that further treatment is futile — that it might erode their quality of life without making a difference in their life expectancy? Surgeons do it indirectly when they declare a patient "inoperable," a determination of futility that people generally accept, maybe because the harm of ineffective surgery is so obvious that it can't be avoided. (Harrington, 2/26)

San Jose Mercury News: Is Alcohol Better For You Than Exercise?

Want to live longer? Bottoms up. Raise your glass for a recent study that suggested that people who imbibe may well live longer than those who abstain. Indeed, as Time reported, the health benefits of sipping seemed higher than those of exercising. But

before you quit the gym and settle in with a nice pinot noir, let's look at the details. (D'Souza, 2/26)

San Jose Mercury News: Standing Desks May Be Hazardous To Your Health
You might want to sit down before you hear the latest research on standing desks. We all know that sitting at a desk for too long can lead to long-term health problems, which has led to many workers switching to standing desks to lose weight, reduce back pain and generally stay more alert. Sitting is the new smoking, right? (D'Souza, 2/26)

Stat: Scientists Reconstruct The Genome Of A Moa, A Bird Extinct For 700 Years
Scientists at Harvard University have assembled the first nearly complete genome of the little bush moa, a flightless bird that went extinct soon after Polynesians settled New Zealand in the late 13th century. The achievement moves the field of extinct genomes closer to the goal of "de-extinction" — bringing vanished species back to life by slipping the genome into the egg of a living species, "Jurassic Park"-like. "De-extinction probability increases with every improvement in ancient DNA analysis," said Stewart Brand, co-founder of the nonprofit conservation group Revive and Restore, which aims to resurrect vanished species including the passenger pigeon and the woolly mammoth, whose genomes have already been mostly pieced together. (Begley, 2/27)

STATE WATCH

14. State Highlights: Son's \$1M Cancer Bill Cost Mass. Teacher Her Job, Complaint Claims; Texas Law To Protect Patients From Surprise Bills Leads To More Confusion

Media outlets report on news from Massachusetts, Missouri, Texas, Illinois, Ohio, Oregon, California, Colorado, Georgia, Montana, Minnesota, Indiana, Maryland and Virginia.

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The Associated Press: Teacher Says She Got Fired Because Son's Cancer Cost \$1M
A teacher who says she was fired from a Massachusetts elementary school because of the high cost of her son's cancer treatment has filed a discrimination complaint. Jacquelyn Silvani tells the Eagle-Tribune that her son's treatment cost Andover Public Schools about \$1 million before she lost her job at West Elementary School in 2016. Her son was 3 at the time. Silvani says she was told that federal funding for the position had been cut, but her complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination says the district later hired someone else. (2/26)

Dallas Morning News: That Freestanding Emergency Room Is Probably Not In-Network, No Matter What The Website Says | Health Care | Dallas News

A Texas law aimed at protecting patients from shocking medical bills after visits to free-standing emergency rooms may not be reducing consumer confusion as intended. The law, which went into effect in September, requires the ERs to say on their websites and at their facilities whether they are in-network or out-of-network for insurance carriers. (Rice, 2/26)

Kansas City Star: Medicare Rankings Show Best, Worst Nursing Homes In Kansas, Missouri

Fred Rich did not check Medicare's ratings for nursing homes before he picked one in Overland Park last month after breaking his back. The 71-year-old from Kansas City now says that doing so might have saved him a lot of frustration. "The absence of staff, particularly well-trained staff, competent staff, makes it a very difficult place to live," he said. (Ryan and Marso, 2/26)

Chicago Tribune: More Women Seem To Be Crossing State Lines To Have Abortions In Illinois

More women appear to be traveling from out of state to have an abortion in Illinois even as the total number of terminated pregnancies statewide decreased, according to the most recent figures from the Illinois Department of Public Health. [Alison] Dreith is among the 4,543 women who crossed the state border to terminate a pregnancy in 2016, an increase from the 3,210 abortions provided to out-of-state women reported in the previous year, based on a state report released in December. Overall, abortions in Illinois dropped from 39,856 in 2015 to 38,382 in 2016.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Anthem: New ER Rule Extends Beyond The Self-Insured
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield on Monday disputed the way the Ohio Department of Insurance has publicly characterized the insurer's new practice of denying some emergency-room claims. Anthem spokesman Jeff Blunt said the department inaccurately reported that the practice only applied to policyholders whose employers were self-insured, according to Capitol Letter, cleveland.com's daily Statehouse tip sheet. (Hancock, 2/26)

The Oregonian: Democrats' Plan To Ask Oregon Voters To Approve Constitutional Right To Health Care Is Dead

Supporters of the drive to enshrine health care as a universal right in Oregon's Constitution acknowledged on Monday that it is dead, at least for this legislative session. Senate Democrats said they lacked the votes to advance the plan by a crucial Tuesday deadline to move it out of committee. ... Democrats in the Oregon House already passed House Joint Resolution 203 to send the health care proposal to the

ballot earlier this month. They did so without securing a single Republican vote. (Borrud, 2/26)

LA Daily News: LA County Offers To Pay Off Student Debt For New Doctors = 2 If They Work In Its Jails

On the outside, Richard Brent was a thief and a user. He stole and used meth and heroin, acted tough and aggressive, all of which got him a 90-day sentence to Los Angeles County's Men's Central Jail. But for Dr. Lauren Wolchok, his physician on the inside, Brent is neither criminal nor inmate. For her, he is a person in need of medical care like anyone else. (Abram, 2/26)

Los Angeles Times: Santa Ana River Homeless Camp Cleared After More Than 700 People Relocated

The gates were locked and the Santa Ana River trail was quiet Monday night after a massive push, spanning six days, to relocate more than 700 people to motels and shelters across Orange County. "This was a landmark process with so many different groups combining forces," said Brooke Weitzman, an attorney who sued Orange County on behalf of seven homeless people, alleging that officials' goal to empty the tent city last month violated her clients' civil rights. (Do, 2/26)

Denver Post: Acne Drug Accutane May Be Blamed In Teen's Murder Trial

Attorneys for a Colorado boy accused of a fatal stabbing hinted in court that Accutane — an acne-treatment drug that some have linked to erratic behavior — may be cited by the defense in explaining the teen's alleged actions. Aiden von Grabow, 15, is charged with first-degree murder and 10 other counts in the stabbing death of Makayla Grote, 20, in Longmont, Colo., on Nov. 18, 2017. (Byars, 2/26)

Atlanta Journal-Constitution: Mother Of Missing CDC Researcher Says Family Is Expecting His Return

Two weeks later, the search to find him continues. "We will be here indefinitely until Tim returns. And we're expecting him to return, that's our prayer," Cunningham's mother, Tia-Juana Cunningham, told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution on Monday. "There are a lot of people praying for him nationally, and that's how we maintain our spirit and faith." (Stevens, 2/26)

Kaiser Health News: Following The Fire: Montana Scientists Seize Chance To Scrutinize Smoke Exposure

Jean Loesch and her family live in Seeley Lake, Mont., which saw the longest and most intense smoke from Montana's wildfires last summer. Loesch has 10 children, adopted or in her foster care, and they are learning what it's like to have lingering respiratory problems. The smoke from the fires was so thick outside, Loesch said, the family

couldn't see the trees across the street, so they stayed inside. It was still really hard to breathe. (Saks, 2/27)

= A

The Star Tribune: Proposed Children's Mental Health Facility In Forest Lake Draws Support At Hearing

In a sign of mounting frustration with Minnesota's mental health care system, more than 100 people packed a Forest Lake City Council hearing Monday night to support a controversial psychiatric residential treatment center for children and adolescents. "We desperately need mental health facilities in this state and around the region," said Marisa Gotsch, whose adult brother never received adequate treatment as a child for his mental illness and is now committed to a state mental hospital. (Serres, 2/26)

The Associated Press: Indiana Close To Becoming 2nd State To Ban Eyeball Tattoos
Indiana could become the second state to effectively ban the unusual practice of tattooing eyeballs, after a committee on Monday unanimously backed a proposal whose sponsor calls it "the grossest bill of the session." Republican Sen. John Ruckelshaus of Indianapolis says he is not aware of any health-related issues that have arisen in Indiana from the process, in which ink is injected into the eye to make the whites change color. (Chuang, 2/26)

Kansas City Star: Dialysis Clinics In Kansas Get Third Party Accreditation Option
Dialysis patients in Kansas won't have to wait as long for new clinics to open in the future, after Congress passed a law allowing the clinics to hire private-sector inspectors. But some health care experts are concerned about what that might mean for patient safety. The provision was included in the budget bill President Donald Trump recently signed. It was promoted by U.S. Rep Lynn Jenkins, a Topeka Republican, and other lawmakers in places where state agencies have fallen behind on the inspections. (Marso, 2/23)

The Baltimore Sun: Chase Brexton Workers Approve First Union Contract, Say Relations With Management Have Improved

Chase Brexton employees voted overwhelmingly Monday to approve their first contract under a union formed nearly 18 months ago amid a rancorous dispute with management over long work hours and other issues. Employees said they thought the contract, which includes pay raises and a new scheduling system that allows them to spend more time with patients, addressed many of the grievances they had regarding working conditions. They also said a new CEO and other senior leadership have

improved the relationship between management and rank-and-file employees, including doctors, psychologists and nurses. (McDaniels, 2/26)

WBUR: Massachusetts To Move Most Shattuck Hospital Care To South End
The Baker administration plans to purchase the former university hospital on Boston Medical Center's (BMC) campus and transfer patients currently treated at Lemuel Shattuck Hospital on the edge of Franklin Park there in 2021. The main reason: Moving the 260 patient beds will cost about half as much as renovating Shattuck would. (Bebinger, 2/26)

WBUR: Agreeing To Staggered Rollout Of Laws, State Votes To Delay Marijuana Home Delivery, Cafes
The Cannabis Control Commission acquiesced Monday to criticism from Gov. Charlie Baker's administration, the Legislature and others, and agreed to delay the launch of home delivery and social consumption until at least this fall, a move that addressed two of the most commonly-condemned parts of the agency's draft industry regulations. (Young, 2/26)

Richmond Times Dispatch: Lead Tests In School Systems Trigger Action From Officials
The amount of lead from the water fountain in the girls' locker room was nearly three times what the state considers acceptable. That water fountain at Salem Middle School in Chesterfield County has since been replaced, and was rarely used to begin with, Salem Principal LaShante Knight wrote in a letter to parents. ... Other school systems in the Richmond area also are taking a closer look at lead levels in their drinking water after a state law enacted last year required them to create and implement a testing plan. (Remmers and O'Connor, 2/26)

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

15. Viewpoints: Trumpcare Is Progress? Fewer Insured, Higher Rates, Debt; Amazon's Goals Full Of Conflicts

Editorial pages highlight these health topics and others.

Los Angeles Times: The Stupidity Of Trumpcare: Government Will Spend \$33 Billion More To Cover 8.9 Million Fewer Americans, As Premiums Soar
Those fiscal geniuses in the White House and Republican-controlled Congress have managed to do the impossible: Their sabotage of the Affordable Care Act will lead to 6.4 million fewer Americans with health insurance, while the federal bill for coverage

risks by some \$33 billion per year. Also, by the way, premiums in the individual market will rise by an average of more than 18%. (Michael Hiltzik, 2/26)

The Washington Post: These 'Buffalo' Health Plans Are A Load Of Bull

Last year, much of the country watched with growing fury as Republicans tried to undo President Barack Obama's signature achievement, the Affordable Care Act. Americans stormed town halls. They jammed congressional phone lines. Some got hauled off to jail for acts of civil disobedience. Bill after bill attempting to dismantle Obamacare imploded. By October, it looked like Republicans had given up at last. How wrong that was. In the months since the last Obamacare vote in the Senate, the Trump administration and Republicans on Capitol Hill have engaged in a sneakier, backdoor repeal. (Catherine Rampell, 2/26)

Bloomberg: Warren Buffett's Health Venture Goals Are Easier Set Than Met

The health-care industry may hope a joint venture on its turf by Amazon.com Inc., Berkshire Hathaway Inc., and JPMorgan Chase & Co. (ABC from now on) might be happy just rolling out an app and driving better deals with third-party vendors. But that's wishful thinking, according to Warren Buffett. The Berkshire CEO said in an interview Monday that ABC is looking for "something much bigger than that." (Max Nisen, 2/26)

USA Today: Self-Insured Employers Can Solve Our 'Too Much Medical Care' Crisis

I have full confidence that the collective power of Amazon, Berkshire Hathaway and JPMorgan to negotiate bulk pricing and cut out pharmacy benefit managers will lower the price point of medications, but the real question is: Do people even need these medications? (Dr. Marty Makary, 2/26)

National Review: The Medicare 'Savings' In The New Budget Deal

Previously, [Medicare Part D] insurers had some incentive to drive drug costs down and keep patients out of the doughnut hole: The insurer still had to pick up a big chunk of the drug costs once the patient fell into the gap. That's a big reason why Part D insurers have aggressively encouraged the use of generic drugs That's why, under the current incentive structure, only one in four Part D patients hits the doughnut hole. This new budget provision [in the tax law passed in December] eliminates that incentive. Insurers will now bear just a tiny fraction of the doughnut-hole expenses — so they'll have little reason to keep costs under control. In fact, they may even have a reason to drive costs up: The sooner patients hit that catastrophic-care threshold, the sooner the government steps in and takes over virtually the entire bill. (Kenneth E. Thorpe, 2/23)

St. Louis Post Dispatch: Drug Firms Lead The Way On Pocketing Tax Cuts

A new survey of U.S. companies from analysts at Morgan Stanley estimates that 43

percent of the savings from the Republican tax cut bill will be paid to investors in the form of higher dividends and stock buybacks. Leading the way are large pharmaceutical companies, which Axios.com reported last week are spending a combined \$50 billion on stock-buyback programs. Only 13 percent of corporate America's tax-cut savings will be passed on to employees, the Morgan Stanley analysts reported. Much of that will go to executives, whose compensation is often tied to stock prices, and they'll benefit as well when share buybacks cause stock prices to jump. (2/26)

Columbus Dispatch: Time To Rein In US Drug Prices

Compared with the rest of the world, the U.S. market for prescription drugs is rigged against consumers and in favor of the pharmaceutical industry. Unlike other advanced nations, the United States refuses to use its purchasing power to negotiate better prices. When Congress, in 2003, passed the Medicare Part D bill to help senior citizens buy prescriptions, it prohibited the government from negotiating cheaper prices for those drugs. The federal government also sets strict limits on when and how Americans can buy drugs from other developed countries. As a result, prescription-drug prices are artificially higher here. (2/27)

Los Angeles Times: The Homeless In L.A. Are Not Who You Think They Are

Many people think of homelessness as a problem of substance abusers and mentally ill people, of chronic skid row street-dwellers pushing shopping carts. But increasingly, the crisis in Los Angeles today is about a less visible (but more numerous) group of "economically homeless" people. These are people who have been driven onto the streets or into shelters by hard times, bad luck and California's irresponsible failure to address its own housing needs. (2/26)

Bloomberg: After Parkland, U.S. Witnesses A Sea Change In Gun Politics

The politics of guns in America seems to be changing for the better. The difference is not the latest gun massacre, which killed 17 students and teachers on Feb. 14 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The difference is the public reaction inspired by the survivors of the shooting. Teenagers demanding reasonable action to protect lives have galvanized a nation. (2/26)

The Wichita Eagle: Gun Violence Protests Will Make America Better

As important as these protests will be to the gun debate, they are crucial for an altogether different reason: These protests mark the emergence of a new generation into the arena of civil discourse. ...For the young students who protest, it will be an opportunity to build not only knowledge, but confidence as well – the confidence that

comes with having a voice, and with standing up for what you believe is right, no matter who is yelling back from the other side. (Blake Stuart, 2/26)

Charlotte Observer: Don't Stigmatize Troubled Teens On The Way To Reducing Gun Violence

Most troubled kids don't shoot up schools, even those who post ugly messages on social media. The mentally ill are more likely to hurt themselves than others. Further stigmatizing wayward youngsters will lead to more false positives for law enforcement to investigate. It's akin to looking for a needle in a haystack by first adding more hay. We must try to prevent as many shootings as we can. That starts by not making the task more difficult than it already is. (2/26)

Press Herald: In Opioid Fight, Stigma Remains A Huge Barrier

It's become a grim and frustrating annual tradition, a call-and-response exercise that says a lot about the opioid epidemic. Each year around this time, we report that Maine yet again set a record for fatal drug overdoses in the previous year, and each time we hear from readers who say the dead had it coming. And it's not just those who have the privilege of staying uninformed on addiction, or the luck to be untouched by its devastation. Too many people with the ability to shape and implement policy remain committed to this misguided view of substance abuse. (2/26)

Stat: NIH Needs To Raise The Bar For Funding Alternative Medicine Research

Suppose you needed to have a CT scan for a sudden, severe headache and partial loss of vision and your doctor asked a nutritionist to read it, rather than a radiologist. Would you trust the diagnosis? Evaluation by a different — and what most would consider a lesser — standard is essentially how a significant amount of research funding is approved by one component of the National Institutes of Health. (Henry I. Miller, 2/26)

The Hill: Sugary Drinks Are Causing Chronic Illnesses — We Need Policy Changes To Combat Them

When we think of the major killers of Americans, we naturally gravitate towards drugs and violence as the major culprits. These are often graphic deaths that occur abruptly. Too often we neglect chronic diseases, which silently claim far more lives. Heart disease is the leading killer in the United States, followed closely by other related illnesses such as stroke. As a physician, I am used to treating conditions that contribute to heart disease and stroke in adults — high blood pressure, diabetes, and obesity. Now, I am seeing children sickened by the same diseases. (Dr. Leana S. Wen, 2/26)

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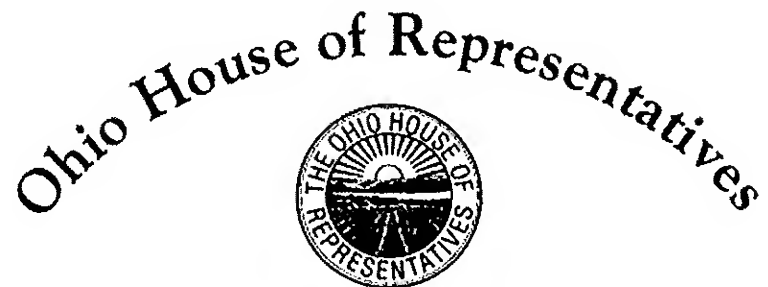
Kaiser Family Foundation & Kaiser Health News | 2400 Sand Hill Road | Menlo Park, CA 94025

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 2:05 PM
To: House_All
Subject: FW: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

****REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS MARCH 9, 2018 at 4PM**

Dominic Paretti
Legislative Aide to Representative Boyd
Ohio House District 09
614-644-5079

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 5:01 PM
To: House_All <House_All@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

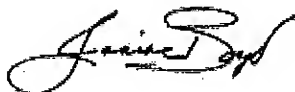
The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09

Kristin Boggs

Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Fedor, Teresa
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 6:34 PM
To: Paretti, Dominic
CC: House_All
Subject: Re: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

Yes

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 27, 2018, at 5:05 PM, Paretti, Dominic <Dominic.Paretti@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

****REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS
MARCH 9, 2018 at 4PM**

Dominic Paretti
Legislative Aide to Representative Boyd
Ohio House District 09
614-644-5079

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 5:01 PM
To: House_All <House_All@ohiohouse.gov>
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<image001.png>
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<image002.jpg>

Janine Boyd

State Representative, Ohio House District 09

<image003.png>

Kristin Boggs

State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Finlay, Serena
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 8:11 AM
To: Paretti, Dominic
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS THIS FRIDAY AT 4PM



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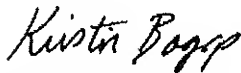
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Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09

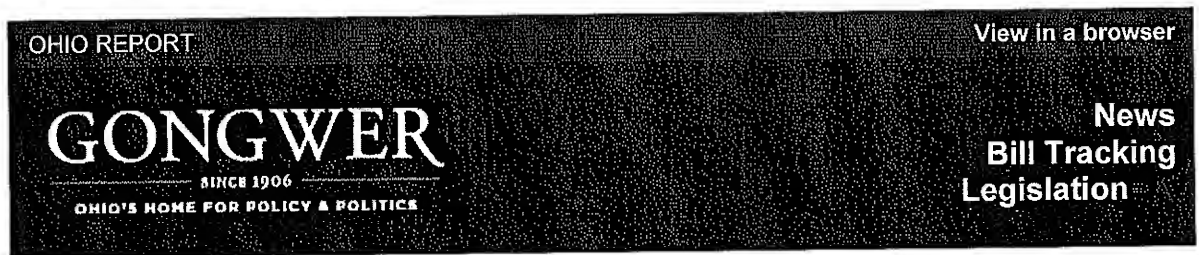


Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 3:35 PM
To: Alexander, Steven
Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, March 5, 2018
Attachments: 180305dayplan.htm; Mar5.htm

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OHIO REPORT MONDAY, MARCH 5

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DeWine Sues Monsanto, Crew SC Operator/Investor And MLS

Planned Updates To Give Farmers New Tool In Curbing Phosphorus Runoff

House District 83: Former Nurse, Business Leader Face Off In GOP Primary

Rover, OEPA Clash Over Landslides, Detected Chemical Traces

New Member Profile: Rep. McClain Follows In Father's Footsteps

Politics Notebook: Buckeye Institute Highlights Capital Budget 'Pork'; Taylor Picks Up Endorsement; Schiavoni Releases New Ad; Balderson Touts War Chest

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

= A

CALENDARS

Day Planner

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, March 6

Legislative Committees

Senate Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Beagle, B., 466-6247), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of M. Beth Trombold, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and Gregory Murphy, Power Siting Board

HB 478 **WIRELESS SERVICES** (Smith, R., LaTourette, S.) To modify the law regarding wireless service and the placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 10 a.m.

HB 529 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Ryan, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 508 **OHIO CORPS** (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.) To establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project and to make an appropriation. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 378 **BROADBAND GRANTS** (Smith, R., Cera, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation. (7th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Schaffer, T., 466-8100), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.

SB 226 **TAX HOLIDAY** (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Agriculture & Rural Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Hill, B., 644-6014), Rm. 121, 1 p.m.

HB 501 **VETERINARY TITLES** (LaTourette, S., Huffman, S.) To change professional title of "registered veterinary technician" to "registered veterinary nurse." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HR 298 **ALFALFA PRODUCTS** (Sprague, R., Hill, B.) To recognize the existence of two alfalfa products in light of the recent action of the Ingredient Definition Committee of the Association of American Feed Control Officials. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m.

SB 266 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Oelslager, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make

reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

SB 225 ■ **BROADBAND GRANTS** (Schiavoni, J., Eklund, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 246 ■ **STUDENT REMOVAL** (Lehner, P., Manning, G.) To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre- kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 329 ■ **PYRAMID SCHEMES** (Pelanda, D.) To modify the law governing pyramid promotional schemes. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

House Session (Committee Record), Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357, Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Fritzsche Theater, Otterbein University, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville, 7 p.m.

- Joint convention for the Governor's State of the State address

Agency Calendar

Small Business Advisory Council, Women's Small Business Accelerator's ThinkSpace, 24 Westerview Dr., Westerville, 10 a.m.

Public Facilities Commission, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 3:30 p.m.

Event Planner

OhioLINK, Ohio Department of Higher Education discussion on textbook affordability and open educational resources, Otterbein University, Towers Hall, Westerville, 10 a.m.

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for McColley)

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Granville Township) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Chair \$350 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

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Children Services Rule To Get Second Look After Concerns Raised At JCARR

The Department of Job and Family Services will refile a proposed rule dealing with child abuse and neglect investigations after agencies said it would lead to more cases and higher costs.

The Public Children Services Association of Ohio told members of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review Monday that the proposed rules would prevent agencies from making "collateral contacts" before deciding to accept a case. That means they would not be able to check certain details, such as whether a parent was in drug treatment, before opening an investigation.

ODJFS argued the county agencies have long been advised in state guidance not to do so. Contacting other people about a potential child abuse or neglect case before contacting the parent can jeopardize the parent's privacy.

The proposed rule changes were designed in part to incorporate revisions to the federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which require more mandatory reporting in cases where children are born addicted to drugs.

The department included the provision preventing collateral contacts before cases to reinforce provisions that have been in guidance for more than a decade, Carla Carpenter, deputy director for the Office of Families and Children at ODJFS, told JCARR.

"The change to the rule merely echoes the guidance that we have been providing since 2005," she said.

Mary Wachtel, director of public policy for the PCSAO, said the rules would make it harder for agencies to screen potential cases by preventing them from following up for more information on referrals before opening an official investigation. It could lead to agencies opening investigations for children who aren't being neglected or abused, opening cases that would require home visits and other costs, she said.

"We are talking about a judicious, somewhat limited use of pre-screening collateral contacts," she said.

Other states allow for collateral contacts before cases are screened in, she said. Those states often have limits, such as that the only people to be contacted would be mandatory reporters of abuse or neglect, such as medical providers.

Ms. Wachtel suggested the department convene a stakeholder group to work out a solution.

"There is a fix here," she said. "We respectfully request that the rules be withdrawn to give time for a substantive discussion and consideration."

The department consulted with stakeholders before drafting the rule, Ms. Carpenter said.

Agencies are given 24 hours to gather information from internal sources, such as if the parent has had previous contact with the child welfare system, and to work back with the person referring the case, she said.

In many cases, particularly those involving drug abuse under the CARA provisions, the person making the referral is a medical professional, Ms. Carpenter said. In those cases, the provider can obtain a release of medical records from the parent to demonstrate that the parent has a drug treatment care plan, for example.

Lawmakers pressed the department on what would happen if the person making the referral was not a medical provider.

"How can you get a written release when you're not allowed to make a collateral contact?" Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) asked.

The agencies would be able to look at the information they have and to ask follow-up to the person referring the case, Ms. Carpenter said. The rules follow the same procedure as guidance in place now.

"They essentially would be making that decision the same way they do today," she said.

JCARR Chair Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) asked how many counties are not complying with the guidelines.

Ms. Carpenter said the department wasn't aware of deviation from the guidance until recently.

Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) said the agency indicated the rule change would have no fiscal effect for the state or for counties, but it could increase the number of cases agencies take on.

The department said the change only codified what was expected to be standard practice, and increases weren't anticipated, Ms. Carpenter said.

"We have a duty as children services agencies to respond to reports that require our attention," she said. "We don't have control over what comes through our front door."

JCARR members caucused for about 45 minutes on the issue, after which ODJFS officials said they would refile the rule pending further discussions with stakeholders.

Report Outlines Ohio's Rankings Ahead Of Kasich's Address

While the state comes in above national averages for the number of residents with health insurance, students enrolled in Pre-K, and structurally sound bridges, it is lagging behind in a number of other areas, a new report shows.

One Ohio Now, a coalition of more than 100 health and human service organizations, labor unions and advocacy groups, released its third annual State of Ohio report on Monday. It shows Ohio's rankings in 16 areas encompassing health, education, the economy and equality.

State Director Gavin DeVore Leonard said it's important that Ohioans have a full picture of how the state is doing before the governor delivers his annual State of the State address on Tuesday.

"Unfortunately, what typically happens with the State of the State is sort of cherry picking the things that make you sound the best, the things you feel like you have the most likelihood of succeeding on in the future, and then often times sort of glazing over the things that are really at the foundation of what's happening, particularly in a place like Ohio, where there is just no getting around it, we are struggling. We're having a hard time keeping up," he said during a Statehouse press event.

Gov. John Kasich and those close to him haven't divulged what his speech will entail, but he told reporters last week that it will be "odd" and "different" than in past years. Being his last SOTS address, he's expected to recap his accomplishments while in office and focus on how he's helped to change state operations during his tenure. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 2, 2018)

Responding to the One Ohio Now report, his spokesman, Jon Keeling, touted the impacts the governor's leadership has had on the state over the last seven years.

"Jobs are up. Wages are growing. More Ohioans have health coverage. Support for K-12 education is at record levels. Poverty is the lowest in nearly a decade. We're taking better care of the vulnerable and those who live in the shadows. And Ohioans are wearing our colors with pride in ways this state hasn't seen in a long time," he said.

"The governor has set a new standard for leadership here in Ohio, and if those values are continued the stage is set for even more progress long after he's gone."

In addition to showing where the state ranks nationally, the report also compares last year's stats to this year's. As infant mortality, overdose deaths and poverty got worse in Ohio in 2017, the state has improved in the areas of college tuition, home foreclosures and hunger.

Despite improvements in some categories, it shouldn't be overlooked that Ohio still ranks at the bottom of states, Mr. DeVore Leonard said.

Higher investments in underperforming areas, such as K-12 and programs combatting hunger could save the state billions of dollars in the long term because Ohioans would be better off, he said.

Especially in K-12, where spending on an inflationary basis has been stagnant since 2002, it's "hard to be a recipe for success," he said.

"We believe that this can be solved and that's actually what the data shows when you look at what's happening around the country," Mr. DeVore Leonard said. "We're nervous that what's happening is that the legislature and the governor are essentially ignoring what the data tells us about how to move our state. They're ignoring what the data tells us about how we should actually get fit and get strong here in Ohio."

To find the funding to make needed investments, he suggested the state repeal a controversial small business tax cut and increase income tax rates for the state's wealthiest.

Although Gov. Kasich has been a champion of eliminating personal income taxes, Mr. DeVore Leonard said a recent softening of his policy stances gives advocates hope that he could be swayed by the data in the report.

"Over the past several weeks and the last few years we've seen that the governor has shown a willingness to reconsider when the facts are just too clear to overcome," he said, citing the governor's support of Medicaid expansion and gun policy proposals.

Mr. DeVore Leonard was joined at the rollout of the report by Trina Payne, executive director of the Ross County Community Action Commission, small business owner Dan Heck, and Vincent Johns Jr. with Faith in Public Life.

Ms. Payne said she's most concerned about the rise in drug overdose deaths in Appalachia - something One Ohio Now tracked for the first time this year.

"Data shows that we must invest in our future as a state to ensure that these numbers decrease and families and communities are given resources to be successful," she said.

Lawmaker Looks To Crack Down On Theft In Office

Public officials who get caught with their hands in the cookie jar would soon face steeper penalties under recently introduced legislation.

The proposal (SB 268) sponsored by Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) would establish first- and second-degree felony offenses for theft in office.



Sen. Wilson

Under current law, theft in office of any amount is limited to a third-degree felony that carries a maximum sentence of three years in prison.

The proposal would change the law to mirror existing penalties for theft. A theft in office of between \$150,000 and \$750,000 would result in a second-degree felony charge that carries a maximum sentence of up to eight years in prison.

Sen. Wilson said the legislation came about after conversations with State Auditor Dave Yost.

"We have a different set of standards for theft when it is someone in office, and in my estimation it shouldn't be," he said in an interview.

A theft of more than \$750,000 would result in a first-degree felony charge, making the offender eligible for a maximum prison sentence of 11 years.

In addition, the measure would allow courts to include the cost of a forensic audit in a restitution order when the victim is a public entity.

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Maumee) has introduced legislation (HB 391) to include the cost of accounting done to determine the extent of an economic loss for restitution purposes. It was recently amended to limit the amount of restitution to be granted for accounting or auditing costs to be reasonable and not exceed the value of the property stolen or damaged.

Sen. Wilson said he would be open to limiting the auditing costs that can be recouped, but wants to ensure that the public is made whole.

"I am open to that but my main concern is that the public not pay and the person who is audited and found guilty has to pay the costs," he said.

Sen. Wilson believes the measure will be well received in the legislature.

"I think it's so logical it will pass unanimously," he said.

Rep. Robert Cupp (R-Lima) is expected to introduce companion legislation in the lower chamber.

The proposal would also bar those convicted of theft in office from serving in a position of public trust.

"Theft in office is a severe crime that warrants an equally severe punishment," Auditor Yost said in a statement.

Opioid Prescriptions Fall For Fifth Straight Year, Pharmacy Board Reports

Doctors in Ohio prescribed fewer opioids in 2017, continuing an ongoing trend, according to data released Monday by the State Board of Pharmacy.

It was the fifth year in a row the number of opioid prescriptions reported to the state's Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System fell.

There were 568 million opioid doses dispensed to Ohio patients in 2017, the report found, down from 631 million in 2016 and 28.4% from an all-time high of 793 million in 2012.

There were 9.3 million total prescriptions dispensed, down from 10.1 million in 2016 and down from a high of 12.6 million in 2012.

"Ohio has one of the most comprehensive and aggressive approaches in the country to tackling the opioid epidemic," Pharmacy Board Executive Director Steven W. Schierholt said in a statement. "Through improvements to OARRS, new prescribing rules and guidelines, shuttering pill mills and aggressive regulatory action against unscrupulous prescribers, the state is making considerable progress in reducing the supply of prescription opioids and other controlled substances that can be abused or diverted."

The OARRS system saw more than 88 million patient reports requested, along with an 88% decrease in the number of people engaged on doctor shopping, the board reported.

"It is widely accepted that prescription opioid abuse often progresses to the use of heroin and other illicit drugs. That is why Ohio's efforts to reduce exposure to prescription opioids are essential to combatting this public health crisis," said Tracy Plouck, director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

The report also found a decrease in the number of prescribers and patients receiving opioid prescriptions. The patient total dropped to just below 2 million, after topping 3 million in 2012. The number of prescribers also fell to just over 55,100, from a high of nearly 66,650 in 2012.

The number of benzodiazepines dispensed to patients also fell, dropping to 233 million solid doses from 254 million in 2016 and 297 million in 2012.

The report also tracked the number of opioid doses prescribed for acute pain, a recent point of emphasis for the state, which has limited the supply doctors can prescribe.

The number of doses for acute pain fell to just under 17 million in 2017, from a high of 31.2 million in 2012. The average prescription also fell from 8.37 days to 7.1 days.

County-level data is also available from the Board of Pharmacy.

The Ohio State Medical Association said doctors have been working to reduce the number of opioid painkillers given to patients.

"Ohio physicians for this entire decade have dedicated themselves to being part of the solution to the opioid epidemic which has gripped our state and we're seeing the positive effects of that commitment," OSMA spokesman Reggie Fields said in a statement. "Through better pain management treatment efforts and clearer state rules and guidelines, physicians are better equipped to make appropriate decisions when it is necessary to prescribe an opioid."

The OSMA pointed to its Smart Rx program, designed to educate prescribers about the safe use of opioids.

"Still, more work needs to be done to reduce the number of opioids dispensed and Ohio physicians remain committed to providing high-quality medical care that is safe and in the best interest of patients," he said.

DeWine Sues Monsanto, Crew SC Operator/Investor And MLS

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Monday announced the filing of two lawsuits - one against a multinational agrochemical company and another designed to halt the possible move of the Columbus Crew.

Filed in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court, Mr. DeWine accuses Monsanto of producing and selling polychlorinated biphenyls from 1929 to 1977 despite knowing the risk the chemical compound posed to humans.

"Ohioans deserve to enjoy their natural resources without contamination from these toxic chemicals, and we believe Monsanto should be held responsible for the damage it caused," the gubernatorial candidate said in a statement. "Our goal in taking this action is to protect Ohio, its citizens, and its natural resources."

The company did not respond to a request for comment on the lawsuit by publication time.

PCBs were used in paints, inks, caulks, sealants, lubricants, electrical equipment and carbonless copy paper, according to the lawsuit.

The chemical compound builds up in living things and contaminates the food chain. In humans, PCBs are associated with cancer, skin and eye disorders, reduced birth weight and liver damage.

The contamination has also been found in fish, soil, plants and the air, the lawsuit alleged.

Despite learning of the toxicity of the chemical in the 1930, the company continued to use the product, according to the lawsuit, which alleges Monsanto was negligent and created a public nuisance through its manufacture, distribution and sale of PCBs.

The lawsuit seeks compensation and damages to investigate and remove PCBs from the state's natural resources.

Crew Lawsuit: Mr. DeWine also filed a lawsuit against Precourt Sports Ventures and Major League Soccer to stave off the soccer club's move to Austin.

The lawsuit is based on the "the Art Modell law," which states that an Ohio professional sports team that uses a "tax-supported facility" and receives financial assistance from the state or a political subdivision cannot relocate without an agreement with the political subdivision. It also must give the political subdivision or any group of individuals who reside in the area an opportunity to buy the team.

Among the allegations in the lawsuit is that the franchise accepted \$5 million in state funds for improvements to parking facilities, the land on which its home stadium sits is exempt from property taxes and the land is leased at below-market rate.

"Loyal Crew fans in Columbus have invested their time and loyalty in this team, and they have allowed the Crew SC to capitalize from financial incentives paid for by their tax dollars. I am left with no other choice than to file this suit to ensure our laws are followed," Mr. DeWine said.

The franchise did not return a call seeking comment by publication time.

AG DeWine was joined in the lawsuit by the city of Columbus.

"Just as importantly, the team plays in a taxpayer-supported facility, and Precourt Sports Ventures and Major League Soccer have accepted financial assistance from the state of Ohio and the City of Columbus. State law provides us with this protection," Mayor Andrew Ginther said.

The lawsuit, filed in Franklin County Common Pleas Court, was the brainchild of Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington). (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 6, 2017)

"I am very pleased that our state's top law enforcement officer is vigorously enforcing longstanding Ohio law," he said in a statement. "The Crew SC is our team. Our town. Neither the MLS or Precourt Sports Ventures can operate above Ohio law."

Planned Updates To Give Farmers New Tool In Curbing Phosphorus Runoff

Upcoming improvements to a key tool could provide farmers with more real-time, actionable data on phosphorus runoff coming from their farms.

Called the Ohio Phosphorus Risk Index, the resource is facilitated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is soon slated for a host of upgrades that farmers and environmental groups in Ohio say will provide one more asset toward curbing phosphorous runoff.

"The idea is you'll put in real actual data and so you will get really specific information then on how to make use of that data," Ohio Farm Bureau spokesman Joe Cornely said in an interview. "And that's crucial because every farm is different - the soil type, the management practices, the type of nutrients."

The tool is aimed at assisting farmers in gauging their risk for phosphorus runoff. That runoff can degrade surface water quality and contributed to harmful algal blooms.

"Providing farmers with tools to be more efficient and environmentally conscious will help their businesses and their watershed," said Peter Bucher, water resources director for the Ohio Environmental Council. "Further identifying what works best at reducing nutrient runoff will allow more farmers to implement the appropriate practices for their property."

The new index is years in the making and is thanks to a project led by Elizabeth Dayton, a researcher in Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The project was funded through a \$1 million USDA Conservation Innovation Grant and \$1 million in matching donations from Ohio farmer groups.

"The index provides a long-term, average estimate of field-scale phosphorus loss based on farmer specific inputs," Ms. Dayton said. "It gives farmers the ability to compare crop management scenarios and evaluate changes in phosphorus runoff, allowing them to prioritize time and resources when making management decisions."

The tool also helps put Ohio's goal to reduce phosphorus levels in Lake Erie by 40% by 2025 within reach, Ms. Dayton said. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 13, 2017)

"The index quantifies how voluntary changes in agricultural practices contribute to achieving target phosphorus runoff reduction goals," she added. "If you multiply that by the millions of crop acres in Ohio, the 40% reduction target appears achievable."

Mr. Cornely said solving the issue of phosphorus levels will "take a whole toolbox."

"And this is one more tool to go in that box," he said. "So when you look at this as it's employed in conjunction with other tools - some that exist, some still being in development - this is one good piece of that arsenal we need to fix the problem."

After harmful algal bloom activity in 2017 tied the third worst season on record, the United States Environmental Protection Agency is moving to reconsider whether Lake Erie's western basin should be classified as impaired. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 22, 2018)

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has touted record spending on water quality projects in 2017, although advocates said more resources are needed. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 27, 2017)

House District 83: Former Nurse, Business Leader Face Off In GOP Primary

Republican contenders for the 83rd House District seat each say they can bring a unique perspective to the General Assembly thanks to their respective expertise in the medical and business fields.

Cheryl Buckland, a member of the Ohio Republican Party's State Central and Executive Committee, and Jon Cross, CEO of the Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance, are vying to succeed Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay), who is running for state treasurer.

Ms. Buckland, 63, was appointed to the ORP's leadership committee in 2013 and has been elected twice since then. A self-described "non-traditional candidate," she's spent four decades working at skilled nursing facilities, teaching nursing students and operating her own extended care facility.

"We have not had a nurse in the General Assembly since 2010," Ms. Buckland said. "With all due respect, we have a lot of people making healthcare decisions without a healthcare background.... I feel I can be a voice for every healthcare discipline."

Mr. Cross, 38, has a background in commercial real estate. He's held the top job at the Hardin County chamber since 2014 and before that spent several stints dabbling in politics in Kansas, California and Texas. In addition to some northeast Ohio campaigns, he also spent a two-year span as an advance man for then-California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

It's his current role, however, that he says gives him an up close look at Ohio's competitiveness with other states and places him on the front lines of drawing and keeping businesses in the Buckeye State.

"Every day as an economic development director, I'm responsible for helping to attract new businesses to our community and our region and helping existing companies with their current demands," Mr. Cross said. "So I think I bring a unique perspective to understanding what it takes to attract a business to Ohio or keep a business open and successful in Ohio."

When it comes to the forthcoming race for House speaker shaping up between Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford), both candidates declined to publicly weigh in at this point.

"Right now that's my focus: the primary," Ms. Buckland said. "I know both the gentlemen and I'm happy to make a declaration of support when that's necessary."

And although he said he's met with both speaker candidates, Mr. Cross echoed that sentiment. "My philosophy has been I have to win my race first," he said.

But there are plenty of other areas in which the candidates remain at odds. Mr. Cross in particular has questioned whether his opponent shares true conservative principles.

"I'm a proud Republican who supports our president," Mr. Cross said. "I'm a strong pro-life advocate. I will do anything I can to help save and protect human life. I don't believe my opponent is."

Ms. Buckland denied any claim that she doesn't support life. Still, she said her medical background has given her the ability to emotionally detach from the issue.

"As a health professional I've been trained to put my personal feelings aside and look at what is in the best interest of the patient," Ms. Buckland said. "When we look at issues that create such an emotional response in people what I can do is come to the table and get pragmatic answers. I support life, I respect death but I'm also very pragmatic and an objective thinker."

Although she supports life in healthcare and abortion-related matters, she also questioned whether politicians have inserted themselves too far into the patient-doctor relationship.

She lists her priorities if elected as advocating for farmers, steering health policy and supporting efforts to curb the opioid epidemic - an issue she saw firsthand through the addiction of her grandson. She described herself as an "out-of-the-box thinker" who can bring a new perspective to the drug fight.

"I know what I know and what I know I know very well but I'm not an expert in everything," Ms. Buckland said. "I would like to be a voice when we look at our

entitlement programs - not unlike the drug crisis - and say are we spending the right dollars in the right places?"

She and her husband sold their extended care facility in 2008, but she said the experience running a business will give her valuable insight to carry into the Statehouse. She said her world travel would also be an asset - including stays in Africa, El Salvador, Russia as well as time spent delivering Polio vaccines in Portugal.

Mr. Cross said his desire to tackle issues from the business perspective easily ties into other pressing challenges facing the state, including workforce development, educational attainment, opioid addiction and adequately funding local communities.

"My largest overarching campaign platform is to make Ohio and the 83rd District safer, stronger and open for business," he said. "How do we get better and how do we compete and how do we make sure policies are not driving people, business, education out of the state?"

His experience across the country, he said, showed him a new perspective on where Ohio stands in business friendliness compared to other states. He wants to be a voice for businesses large and small and is a strong defender of the 2nd Amendment, he said.

"We want to make sure rural America, rural Ohio, where you have large corporations to family farms, that perspective is brought into the conversation and policy decisions," Mr. Cross said.

Ms. Buckland and her husband, Larry, have seven stepchildren, 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Among her talents, she lists flamenco and tap dancing.

Mr. Cross, when he's not eating pizza and burgers on the campaign trail, enjoys spending time with his wife, Christina, and playing sports with his two sons, ages 3 and 7.

The winner of the Republican nomination will likely face Democrat Ashley Philipp of McComb who is running unopposed in the primary.

Subscribers Note: This story is part of a series focusing on key primary races for Ohio legislative seats. See Gongwer's Election Page for more information on 2018 contests, including our Key Races.

Rover, OEPA Clash Over Landslides, Detected Chemical Traces

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Rover Pipeline builders continue to lock horns - this time engaging in a contentious back-and-forth over several land slips posing "serious threat to environmental resources."

The OEPA is also requesting new tests after the presence of a manufactured chemical, tetrachloroethene, was found in some drilling returns in Stark County.

The two issues are the latest battle grounds in the ongoing dispute between the two entities - which is simultaneously playing out in an ongoing court case in Stark County. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 5, 2018)

The landslide issue came to the forefront last month when Rover Pipeline LLC requested the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approve temporary workspace for it to repair 28 landslips in Ohio and West Virginia.

But the OEPA, in a subsequent missive to FERC said the company's online filing was the first notice the agency received of the situation and blasted the company for failing to adequately notify the state.

"Ohio EPA is concerned that Rover and FERC did not immediately bring to our attention what Rover now describes as 'a serious threat to sensitive environmental resources,'" OEPA wrote. "Instead of trying to work around Ohio, we again call on Rover to be forthright and provide us with information so we can ensure the environment and citizens are protected."

Rover, meanwhile, argues the state is attempting to besmirch the company in order to gain more leverage in Ohio's ongoing lawsuit. And it accuses state regulators of not fully reading the company's filings in its "haste to cast aspersions."

"Ohio EPA's letter is the latest in a string of baseless claims regarding Rover that attempt to denigrate Rover to advance its own litigation position," Rover's response reads. "Notwithstanding that Ohio EPA does not have jurisdiction in this matter, Rover, on a voluntary basis, has cooperated with Ohio EPA regarding all of its inquiries irrespective of jurisdiction, including on potential impacts from Rover's construction activities."

The OEPA has accused the company of claiming the state has no role in protecting its own environment - an idea the agency called "absurd."

The agency wrote that it "absolutely" expects "to be informed of these troubling threats" and involved in "permitting of any potential impacts to streams and wetlands."

"Moreover, where impacts have occurred, Rover needs to clearly gain our approval of actions to minimize impacts and repair the damage they have done," OEPA added.

The ongoing tiff over those land slips is just one of the conflicts the parties are engaged in. Another dispute arising in recent week centers on the presence of tetrachloroethene or PCE in some drilling fluid returns along the Tuscarawas River.

PCE is a liquid chemical that in high levels is thought to headaches, dizziness, unconsciousness and other effects and it is considered by the government as a potential carcinogen, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

The chemical levels detected in Rover returns registered below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional screening risk level for direct contact, according to the OEPA, but levels clocked in above the screening threshold of soil leaching to groundwater.

As a result, OEPA asked federal regulators to force Rover to conduct additional sampling along with a separate sampling of drilling fluid source water in an effort to pinpoint the PCE's point of origin.

"These additional samples should be taken immediately and the results submitted to our attention for further evaluation," OEPA wrote.

Rover, in turn, argues that PCE is a "prominent contaminant in the environment" and that Ohio has reported multiple instances of detections in the environment in circumstances not affiliated with the project. The company characterized the levels were "minor and non-hazardous."

"Ohio EPA has documented impacts of PCE contamination in the waters of the state and engaged in several initiatives to achieve attainment," Rover said. "Accordingly, Ohio EPA's new-found concerns are as spurious as they are disingenuous."

New Member Profile: Rep. McClain Follows In Father's Footsteps

Rep. McClain has worked in business and currently serves as director of finance and customer service for Doc Investments LLC, an online precious metals retailer. The metals retailer was designed to emphasize a low-cost retail model.

"I'm pretty experienced with the changing of what the business market looks like with online retail and some of the opportunities that go along with that," he said.

As state representative, he hopes to focus on policies that will help build small businesses.

Rep. McClain said another important focus for him is on policies that help families. Rep. McClain and his wife have been married for more than 10 years and have three children, ages 2, 4 and 8.

"I'm about Ohio families," he said. "I value the family structure greatly and what that does in setting kids up, and Ohio up, our communities up for greatness."

Promoting families can help communities deal with issues and help each other, he said.

"I want to be an advocate for families taking care of each other, being good stewards of our children and being able to foster environments where people have the resources they need to find the help that they need in their own communities and foster a culture of people helping people," he said.

Rep. McClain said he spends a lot of his time outside of work with his children and family as well as remodeling his house.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Bluffton University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Findlay.

At Bluffton, Rep. McClain was on the baseball team, playing several positions including shortstop, outfield and pitcher. One summer he traveled Europe with Athletes in Action, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. The team played clubs in France, Germany and the Czech Republic, while also doing ministry activities with children and at camps.

"It was almost a barnstorming tour to spread baseball in Europe," he said.

Although he's familiar with the work of the House after seeing his father's experience, Rep. McClain said he hopes to prove himself and find ways to contribute, he said.

"The hat's on my head now and I'm moving forward to do everything I can to be responsive," he said.

Politics Notebook: Buckeye Institute Highlights Capital Budget 'Pork'; Taylor Picks Up Endorsement; Schiavoni Releases New Ad; Balderson Touts War Chest

The Buckeye Institute on Monday unveiled its Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018.

All told, the projects highlighted by the Buckeye Institute total more than \$18 million, according to the report.

Among the projects singled out is \$4 million for a Major League Soccer stadium in Cincinnati, \$2.5 million to expand the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and \$5 million for the COSI Connection Corridor.

"If these, and other pork projects in the budget, were funded using local or private dollars, as they should be, Ohio could have at least \$85 million more that it could spend on pressing state priorities, save, or better yet, return to taxpayers," Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at Institute, said in a statement.

Mr. Lawson also lamented the lack of funding for strengthening the state's physical and democratic infrastructure.

"Policymakers should do more to heed our call to focus the capital budget on strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructure and move away from projects of predominately local interest," he said. "Simply put, it is hard to see how it benefits someone in Youngstown for Cincinnati to get a soccer stadium or how people in Cleveland benefit from renovations to COSI."

Taylor Endorsement: Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor on Monday picked up an endorsement in her gubernatorial bid in the form of U.S. Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.).

In announcing his endorsement, Mr. Daines said he has known Ms. Taylor's running mate, Nathan Estruth, for many years.

"Lt. Governor Mary Taylor is a conservative who has and will continue to challenge the status quo establishment in Ohio. It is important to elect leaders in states across the country - and especially in the swing state of Ohio - who will fight for a bold conservative agenda alongside the people's representatives in Washington," he said in a statement.

"We need more private sector experience and principled conservatives to tame the overreach of government at the federal and state levels, and the Mary Taylor/Nathan Estruth ticket are the only ones in either party who bring that for the people of Ohio."

Added Ms. Taylor in a statement: "Senator Daines' support today and over the next 68 days adds to our growing momentum as conservatives across Ohio and the country rally around my campaign as the true conservative in this race."

New Ad: Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) is out with a new ad in which he highlights his desire to create opportunities for future generations.

The 30-second spot, "For Them," features Sen. Schiavoni's family, including his two children.

"As a parent, everything you do is for them. The simple lessons, the big decisions, you want them to succeed," he says in the ad. "But you worry - what opportunities will be there for them?"

Balderson Warchest: The congressional campaign of Sen. Troy Balderson on Monday announced that it has raised \$300,000 in the eight weeks since the Zanesville Republican officially entered the race.

"This campaign has had non-stop momentum since day one, and I could not be more grateful to the many contributors of this effort," he said in a statement. "So many people from my Senate District and throughout Central Ohio have asked to be a part of our campaign because they know that my conservative record makes me the best candidate to help fix a broken Washington."

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, March 15

Criminal Sentencing Commission, 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Tuesday, March 6

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m.,
(Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for McColley)

Wednesday, March 7

Ohioans to Stop Execution news conference on clemency hearing, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse,
Columbus, 10 a.m.

Monday, March 12

Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) fundraiser, Queen City Club, 331 E. Fourth Street, Cincinnati, 5
p.m., (Host: \$5,000 | Sponsor: \$2,500 | Supporter: \$1,000 | Attendee: \$500 to Steve Wilson for
Ohio)

Tuesday, March 13

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) fundraiser, The Keep, 50 W. Broad Street, Columbus, 4:30
p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) & Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) fundraiser, Pins Mechanical
Co., 6558 Riverside Drive, Dublin, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$250 to
Citizens for Stephanie Kunze and/or Citizens for Duffey)

Wednesday, March 14

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) fundraiser, Pub Mahone, 31 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m.,
(Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Friends of Bill Coley)

Tuesday, March 20

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) & Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Athletic Club of
Columbus - Gold, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest:
\$350 to Hackett for Ohio and/or Friends of Lou Terhar)

Wednesday, March 21

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Crystal, 136 E.
Broad Street, Columbus, 7:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$500 to Citizens for
Obhof)

Tuesday, April 10

Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Buckeye
Bourbon House, 36 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350
to Committee to Elect Gayle Manning and/or Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Wednesday, April 11

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) & Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of
Columbus - Lounge, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 |
Guest: \$350 to Peterson for Good Government and/or Steve Wilson for Ohio)

Tuesday, April 17

Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) & Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Checks to Oelslager for Ohio Committee and/or Hoagland for Ohio)

Wednesday, April 18

Ohio University State Government Alumni Luncheon, Athletic Club, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Social: 11:30 am; Luncheon: 12 pm)

Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) & Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Hottinger and/or Friends of Matt Dolan)

Tuesday, April 24

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Brenner for Ohio)


Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) & Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Matt Huffman for Ohio and/or Friends of John Eklund)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

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Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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From: Finlay, Serena
Sent: Thursday, March 8, 2018 10:57 AM
To: Paretti, Dominic
Subject: Deadline Tomorrow: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS TOMORROW AT 4PM



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

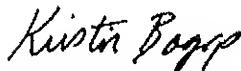
An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09



Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Fiore, Anthonio
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 4:03 PM
To: Fiore, Anthonio
CC: Elizabeth Murch
Subject: Urging Your Support for Sub. HB 189 Before the Spring Recess
Attachments: Eric_Bakken_Regis Corporation_Sub_HB_189_Letter_Of_Support_Signed.pdf; 2018_0316 OSA Ltr to All Ohio House Members Urging Support for Sub HB 189 - FINAL.pdf

Dear Ohio House members,

We are writing to ask for your **support** and **expeditious passage** of the **occupational licensure reforms** to Ohio's cosmetology industry contained in **Sub.HB 189** before the Spring recess. The announcement this week of more private cosmetology schools closing makes it more important than ever to pass the reforms contained in **Sub. HB 189**. **Six additional school closures** were announced bringing the total number to **28 closures since May 2015** (or around 30%). In addition, we have included a few items raised by opponents that we are willing to work on in the Senate if the bill is favorably passed off the House floor.

I've also attached a list of all public testimony o **HB 189**. In addition the **letters of support from smaller salon owners** around the state, we just received the attached letter of support from Regis Corp that has over 30 brands under its umbrella with hundreds of locations across all 88 counties.

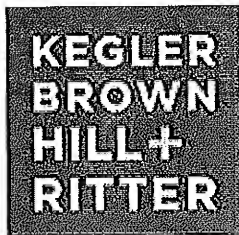
Have a great weekend. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Tony

Anthonio C. Fiore
Of Counsel

65 East State Street | Suite 1800 | Columbus, OH 43215
direct (614) 462-5428 | mobile (614) 906-8669 | fax (614) 464-2634



aflore@keglerbrown.com

my bio : [vCard](#) + [email](#)



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5th Hearing – March 7, 2018

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
H. B. No. 189	5th Hearing		Download	Download
Witness	Organization	Stance	Document	
Wezlynn Davis	null	Opponent	Download	
Patrick Thompson	null	Opponent	Download	
Don Boyd	Ohio Chamber of Commerce	Proponent	Download	
Sue Carter Moore	Ohio Association of Cosmetology Schools	Opponent	Download	
Nancy Brown	Brown Aveda Institute	Opponent	Download	
Brandon Ogden	null	Proponent	Download	
Natalie Lockhart	JCPenney Salon	Proponent	Download	

4th Hearing – February 27, 2018

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
H. B. No. 189	4th Hearing	I 132 1073-3	Download	Download
Witness	Organization	Stance	Document	
Lisa Nelson	null	Proponent	Download	
Ohio Salon Association	null	Proponent	Download	
Don Boyd	null	Proponent	Download	
Olara Osterhage	null	Proponent	Download	
Chris Ferruso	NFIB	Proponent	Download	

3rd Hearing – June 21, 2017

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
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H. B. No. 189 3rd Download Download
Hearing

Witness	Organization	Stance	Document
Greg Lawson	The Buckeye Institute	Interested Party	Download
Michael Shuh	null	Proponent	Download
Mahlana Yeager	null	Proponent	Download
Dana Pallatos	null	Proponent	Download
Bridget Sharpe	Professional Beauty Association	Proponent	Download
Myra Reddy	Future of Beauty Industry Coalition	Proponent	Download
NeCole Cumberlander	null	Proponent	Download
Rowena Yeager	null	Proponent	Download
Beth Hickey	null	Proponent	Download
David Boucher Additional	null	Proponent	Download
David Boucher	null	Proponent	Download
Rachelle King	null	Proponent	Download
Kerry Sawyer	null	Proponent	Download
Nancy Brown	null	Opponent	Download
Wezlynn VanDyke Davis	null	Opponent	Download
Patrick Thompson	null	Opponent	Download
Angela Harvey	null	Opponent	Download
Jill Hawkins Mitchell	null	Opponent	Download
Gerry Reis	null	Opponent	Download
Will Molden	null	Opponent	Download
Chris Ferruso	NFIB	Proponent	Download

2nd Hearing – May 23, 2017

Bill Status Amendments Fiscal Notes Analysis
H. B. No. 189 2nd Download Download
Hearing

Witness	Organization	Stance	Document
Jonny Flore	Ohio Salon Association	Proponent	Download
Clara Osterhage	null	Proponent	Download
Charles Penzone	The Charles Penzone Salons	Proponent	Download
Frank Gambuzza	null	Proponent	Download
Lori Yeager	Sport Clips	Proponent	Download
Debra Tillery	null	Proponent	Download

Stefan Eckert	Great Clips	Proponent	Download
Bridget Sharpe	Professional Beauty Association	Proponent	Download
Frank Schoeneman	Empire Education Group	Proponent	Download
Tom Quick and Lisa Groome	Roosters: Men's Grooming Center	Proponent	Download
Jasha Shelpine	null	Proponent	Download
Gordon Logan	Sports Clips	Proponent	Download
Dub Nelson	Roosters: Men's Grooming Centers	Proponent	Download

1st Hearing – May 17, 2017

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
H. B. No. 189	1st — Hearing		Download	Download
Witness	Organization	Stance	Document	
Rep. Roegner	null	Proponent	Download	
Rep. Reece	null	Proponent	Download	

REGIS

7201 Metro Boulevard | Minneapolis, MN 55439 | 952-947-7777

March 15, 2018

To: All Ohio House of Representatives

From: Eric Bakken
EVP, President—Franchise

RE: Urging your support for Sub. HB 189

My name is Eric Bakken, and I serve as the Executive Vice President and President—Franchise for Regis Corporation. I'm writing to urge your support for Sub. HB 189.

Regis Corporation is a leader in beauty salons and cosmetology education. As of December 31, 2017, the we owned, operated, franchised or held ownership interests in over 8,800 locations worldwide. We also maintain an ownership interest in Empire Education Group in the U.S. Regis owns or franchises 386 salon locations in Ohio, amounting to over 2,000 stylists and managers in the state. We operate under several brands in all 88 counties throughout Ohio, including: Best Cuts, Borles Hair Care, Famous Hair, Fiesta Salons, First Choice Haircutters, Haircrafters, Mastercuts, Regis Salons, Roosters, Saturdays, SmartStyle, and Supercuts.

At Regis, we are deeply committed to providing our customers with the safest and highest quality experience in our salons. To achieve this, we ensure our stylists and managers are properly educated and licensed in accordance with state regulations. We also offer our team members continued education and training to refine their skills, keep on trend and to stay in tune with the latest sanitary protocols. However, our industry has become increasingly competitive, most of which is attributable to a shortage in skilled labor. That's why for over four years, Regis has supported a group called the Future of the Beauty Industry Coalition (FBIC) whose main purpose is to provide reasonable reforms to state cosmetology law using research and analytics from all 50 states.

The FBIC consists of cosmetologists, students, salon owners, manufacturers, distributors, and cosmetology schools. The FBIC values our industry's appreciation of safety and quality, and therefore has proposed Sub. HB 189 which modifies the existing law and reduces the Ohio license minimum hour requirements from 1,500 to 1,000, as opposed to a complete deregulation of the industry. In addition, Sub. HB 189 lays the groundwork for model occupational licensing reform legislation for the cosmetology industry in all 50 states and helps to eliminate a barrier of entry into our industry.

The minimum 1,500 hours state licensing requirement serves as a barrier of entry into the beauty industry. In addition, Ohio's reciprocity law requires a licensee to sit for an Ohio exam even though they may have passed another state's licensing exam a month or so before. This doesn't help our stylist be mobile in deciding where to work and live, especially near Ohio's boarding counties. Sub. HB 189 reduces the hours to 1,000 hours for a full cosmetology license and helps out of state licensees come to Ohio to work and raise a family.

For these reasons, I am writing on behalf of Regis Corporation in support of the Ohio Salon Association's proposed comprehensive reform package to Ohio's cosmetology laws contained in Sub. HB 189 (and the

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companion bill in the Ohio Senate, SB 129). This reform is a positive step for our industry, and I respectfully request this committee's support on the work being done here.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to submit this letter in support of Sub. HB 189.



Eric Bakken
EVP, President—Franchise
Regis Corporation

